

Ed Weintrob / The real story is the land grab, not the Nets

That the Nets are coming is beside the point. And that is the real story, a story masterfully buried by developer Bruce Ratner and his media shills. (When the New York Times is your real estate partner, it's amazing the story its pages featuring nine upbeat, lucidly illustrated sto-

ries in Thursday's edition.) The real story is that the Atlantic Yards project — and its companion Downtown Brooklyn Plan — is not about the Nets (whose stadium would occupy a tiny part of the massive site), it's about a land grab by Ratner and his political clients, the largest, most expensive government

seizure of private property for private benefit ever in Brooklyn. Let's dispose of the sidebar first: Atlantic Terminal is probably the best site in town for a Nets arena, just as it would have been for the Dodgers in the '50s. The site's residential neighbors might not like to hear this, but the Flatbush-Atlantic area is

too good a hub to leave fallow, and they should have suspected that Ratner's early step toward the ugly, dysfunctional, failed Atlantic Center shopping mall he opened in the '90s and his takeover of the Manhattan-centric, expansionist (in a real estate, if not an artistic, vein) Brooklyn Academy of Music — was little

more than a holding action. With virtually no public consultation (and no request for competing proposals), Gov. Pataki is apparently prepared to condemn enough privately-owned property to allow a potential build-out of more than 14 million square feet, the equivalent of seven Empire State buildings.

Ratner's architect (sorry, the media's been instructed to say "world renowned" architect) Frank Gehry said his intent is to build a neighborhood from scratch. Brooklyn's been hot for a number of years, and not because there's nothing here worth preserving.

People live in Brooklyn (and pay millions for homes in neighborhoods abutting the condemned sites) for many reasons, not the least of which is it's not Manhattan but close to it, and it's not the kind of sterile, suburban campus represented by Ratner's Metrotech which, contrary to popular but uninformed opinion, is anything but a smashing success.



BROOKLYN'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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RATNER NABS NETS

B'klyn cheers, trembles as \$300M bid accepted



Architect Frank Gehry's design for an arena Bruce Ratner would like to build near the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues. This week, Ratner purchased the NBA's New Jersey Nets, which he plans to move to Brooklyn.

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Goodbye New Jersey. Hello, Brooklyn.

After months of negotiations, developer Bruce Ratner reached a deal this week to purchase the New Jersey Nets for \$300 million. He plans to bring the team across two rivers to the Borough of Kings.

Community Youth Organization, which owns the team, agreed to the deal at a meeting Friday morning putting an end to the drawn-out bidding war. "We're very excited," said Ratner spokesman Barry Baum. "We have a few issues to work out, but we think it would be great for New York and great for Brooklyn."

Borough President Marty Markowitz, who has been dreaming of bringing professional sports back to Brooklyn ever since the Dodgers left for California in 1957, was ecstatic about the prospect of "netting the Nets."

One of the loudest supporters of the plan, Markowitz remained collected this week, maintaining a wait-and-see attitude until the contracts are signed and final approval given.

The deal must be approved by three-fourths of the NBA team owners. A move of the team to Brooklyn would also the approval of NBA owners.

"I can hardly wait for Brooklyn to realize all of the jobs, housing and other benefits that this project will deliver along with Brooklyn's return to the national sports stage," Markowitz said.

Until late last week, the Nets owners were also in negotiations with New Jersey real estate developer Jon Kushner and U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine (D-N.J.), who had the second-highest bid.

"He fought hard to keep this team in New Jersey," said Kushner spokesman Michael Turner. "He played by the



Developer Bruce Ratner tries on a fedora and jacket at Junior's when announcing plans in October to purchase the Nets.

CB2 panels: Slow down D'town plan

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

It's the largest development plan for Brooklyn in decades, and with concerns about transportation, the seizing of private property and a drastically altered landscape, three Community Board 2 committees this week indicated that the board wants the city to slow down and provide more details.

The Downtown Brooklyn Plan, as it is known, would turn the area — generally bounded by Tillary Street (north), Schermerhorn Street and Flatbush Avenue down to Pacific Street (south), Ashland Place down to Fulton Street and then Fort Greene Place down to Pacific (east) and Adams Street (west) — into a major hub of commerce similar to Midtown Manhattan, with soaring skyscrapers that would dwarf the Williamsburgh Savings Bank building, currently the tallest structure in the borough.

The rezoning plan encompasses at least two current proposals: the plan for an arts and cultural library, within the Brooklyn Academy of Music Cultural District at the intersection of Ashland Place with Lafayette and Flatbush avenues, and Bruce Ratner's plan for a Frank Gehry-designed, 620-foot-tall skyscraper at Flatbush and Atlantic avenues that would be adjacent to his proposed professional basketball arena.

Plans for the rest of the more than two-dozen other projected and potential development sites — at least 6.7 million square feet of office space is projected

— are vague and developers would be allowed to develop them as-of-right, requiring no further public review, should the Downtown Brooklyn Plan be adopted.

As the full board gears up to cast its vote on the sweeping plan on Jan. 28, the Traffic and Transportation commit-

tee voted 14-0 against the plan Tuesday night, calling the city's application — which involves 22 individual actions from rezoning to selling city property to expanding urban renewal areas — woefully inadequate.

With subways at capacity and traffic

See D'TOWN on page 5



Bridge over frozen waters

The Manhattan Bridge span looms over a partially frozen East River on the shores of DUMBO Monday — the result of a week's worth of freezing temperatures.

Man missing in lake

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

With temperatures dipping below freezing, the search to recover the body of a man who is believed to have fallen through thin ice on the lake in Prospect Park last weekend continues.

The rescue effort was aborted several times this week due to the frigid weather, which froze police divers' air tanks.

Ignoring several signs warning against treading on the thin ice, a man witnesses described as about 6 feet tall and in his 20s, ventured out onto the ice and fell through around 9 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 18.

According to one account, the man was able to pull himself out of the freezing water, but then fell through again.

"It's very, very tragic," said Tupper Thomas, president of the Prospect Park Alliance.

Ice must be at least six inches thick before it can maintain the weight of a person, and to freeze to the right thickness, the temperature must be well below



See LAKE on page 16 An ice rescue ladder at the shore of the Prospect Park Lake.

Web cartoon bashes shelter

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

For anyone who hasn't been following the neighborhood fight against a battered women's shelter opening in Carroll Gardens, you can now catch the entire saga online.

In one-sided, satirical cartoon form, that is.

Danny Contreras, a neighborhood resident and vocal opponent of the facility, decided to turn the struggle to open a 20-bed facility for battered Asian women and their children into an animated series.

See SHELTER on page 16

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Drunk burglar caught on rooftop

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

When police responded to a call on Hunts Lane — an alley between Remsen and Joralemon streets — at Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights they found a man on the roof armed with a bottle of expensive vodka and several cans of imported Boddington's Pub Ale.

When asked what he was doing, the tippler confessed to burglarizing an apartment. In addition to the booze, the suspect had on his person a Sony Walkman and two 20 Euro-dollar notes, police said. The incident occurred at 7:40 am on Jan. 18.

Brazen bandits
Bandits shattered the window of the Bruzen Head, a bar on Atlantic Avenue at Boerum Place, and broke into the cash register in the early morning hours of Jan. 11. After breaking in, the suspects swiped \$970 from the register and then fled, police said. The break-in was discovered at 9 am, about five hours after the bar had closed.

Subway snooze
A Pratt University student who dozed off on a bench while waiting for an early morning A train at the Hoyt-Schermerhorn stop had his wallet filled by a couple of fast-fingered bandits. The victim, 33, awoke when he felt somebody touch-

84/76 Blotters

ing his leg. When he looked down he saw a hole had been cut in his pocket. Hovering above, a thief stood basking the stolen body while another was sitting next to him, police said. The pair ran off with the wallet, which contained \$35.

The incident occurred at 7 am on Jan. 15.

Packer picker
Expensive computer equipment was lifted from the offices of the Packer Collegiate Institute at Joralemon and Clinton streets.

An employee discovered a Dell laptop, valued at \$4,000, and a digital projector missing when he returned to the office on Jan. 12 at 7:30 am.

The equipment was last seen three days earlier, police said.

Locker thief
After working out, a woman returned to her locker at a gym on Boerum Place near Dean Street at 9 pm on Jan. 14 only to discover that her wallet had been taken along with her credit cards, Blackboxer Video rental card, and \$60 in cash, police said.

That stinks!
A man was stopped by a security guard when he tried to pocket six cans of Axe Body Spray deodorant from a supermarket at Clark and Henry streets.

After being stopped, the man struck the employee about the head and chest and then fled with the cans. The incident occurred at 10 pm on Jan. 16.

No-good deed
A woman getting her nails done at a salon on Livingston Street near Hanover Place watched helplessly as a pair of no-goodniks grabbed her bags and ran out at 7 pm on Jan. 16.

The victim, 45, lost a diabetes tester, medication and five credit cards, police said.

Beaten with bat
A man walking along Nevins Street near Wyckoff Street was attacked from behind by a pair of street toughs wielding a baseball bat and gun at 11:10 pm on Jan. 12.

One thug pulled out a silver handgun and told the victim not to move. Then another attacker struck the 53-year-old victim on the head with an aluminum baseball bat.

The suspects rifled through

the victim's pockets as he lay on the sidewalk and made off with \$340 before they ran off and jumped in a green Lexus. The victim was taken to Brooklyn Hospital Center in Fort Greene, where he was treated and released.

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'Alarming' light heist on 13th St

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

When a man heard a car alarm going off outside the window of his home on 13th Street near Seventh Avenue, he peeked his head out to have a look.

And he didn't like what he saw.

The victim, 33, noticed the alarm belonged to his Nissan Maxima.

A white Volkswagen Jetta was parked just next to it with the ignition running. But by the time the man got downstairs, the white car was gone.

And so were the headlights of his car.

The lights were valued at \$2,000, according to police.

The incident occurred at 11:25 pm on Jan. 16.

Heavy fare

When a young woman exited a yellow taxi near her Seventh Avenue home she accidentally left her cell phone behind.

She later found out the phone was used in a seven-hour call to Pakistan costing a whopping \$2,500.

The incident near First Street occurred at 12:30 am on Jan. 14.

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Identity thief

A woman on Park Place at Sixth Avenue received some bad news from her credit card company this week.

A thief used the card to purchase \$1,003 worth of goods from a technology store in Idaho and tried to use the card to buy a computer in California, police said.

The woman reported the spree to the 78th Precinct on the morning of Jan. 15.

Walk-through

A man going through the drive-through at a McDonalds on Fourth Avenue and First Street had more than fast food on his mind.

Just before midnight on Jan. 15, the man, wearing a North Face winter jacket with a scarf covering part of his head, walked up to the order intercom.

The suspect placed an order, and even paid for it, but when the 19-year-old employee went to return the change, the suspect demanded more.

"Give me all the money," said the quick-fingered hoodlum as he reached through the drive-through window to grab money out of the cash register.

The suspect fled eastbound on First Street.

The franchise caught the incident on its surveillance video, which clearly shows the man reaching in to get the cash, police said.

Charged up

A man shopping at a grocery store on Seventh Avenue at First Street went to pay for his goods, but noticed his wallet was nowhere to be found.

By the time the 57-year-old victim called his credit card company, the bandit had already racked up \$1,848 of charges at a PC Richards on Flatbush Avenue near Fourth Avenue, police said.

The thief also got away with \$3 in cash and a library card, police said. The incident occurred at 1 pm on Jan. 10.

Sixth Ave. mug

A purse-snatcher assaulted a woman walking along Sixth Avenue as she approached Prospect Place at 7:25 pm on Jan. 13.

The victim, 67, was approached from behind by a man who grabbed her bag and tried to run. When the victim resisted, he punched her in the face and fled with \$40 and a MetroCard, police said.

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Not a 'grade' school

New private school would shun test scores, classes

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

While Park Slope is generally recognized as having good public and private schools, one neighborhood parent and educator believes they rely too heavily on grades and test scores to actually teach anything. So he's decided to start one of his own.

Banking on the notion that other parents in the traditionally progressive, liberal and increasingly baby-carriage-intensive neighborhood feel the same way, Alan Berger, a vice-principal at Murry Bergtraum High School in lower Manhattan, is taking a hiatus from his job to pour all his efforts into opening a small private school in Park Slope based on a less institutionalized model that he calls "Democratic Philosophy."

The learning philosophy shuns the grade- and score-intensive competitiveness that he says, drive most schools. The Brooklyn Free School, as Berger is calling it, has thus far depended on grassroots efforts, spreading the word in living rooms and local cafes. Berger has also set up a Web site—brooklynfreeschool.org.

After publishing an article in the Park Slope Food Co-op's October newsletter, Berger said he received a deluge of e-mails and telephone calls from interested parents wanting to learn more about his efforts.

Many of those parents have signed on, he said. "We have made a lot of progress in just a few months," he said.

That enthusiasm comes despite the fact that just months away from the new school year, the Brooklyn Free School has secured neither a home nor significant funding.

But all that does little to deter Berger, 46, who meets regularly with a devoted group of parents, many of whom are also educators.

The Brooklyn Free School is to be based on the principles of the Summerhill School, founded in England in 1924, and is focused on making students active participants in

their education.

All the students and staff share equally in setting up and running the school through committees that meet weekly, according to Berger.

There is no set curriculum, no grades, no classes, no tests and no report cards. The model "dispels the notion that children are simply cogs in the wheel and should have no say in what they learn," Berger wrote in the newsletter.

"We don't want students to lose their love for learning," said Mariano Torres, a Park Slope resident and Economics professor at Adelphi University who joined the Brooklyn Free School effort after reading about it in the co-op newsletter.

Torres hopes to send his son, who will be starting pre-kindergarten in the fall. If all goes well, Berger said, he will quit the Department of Education and take up as a director and teacher at the school in the fall.

Expecting 30 students in the first year, the school would hire two other teachers and a number of college interns to maintain the 10-to-1 student-to-teacher ratio.

Despite its name, the Brooklyn Free School (the free is for the philosophy, not the cost) would charge tuition based on a sliding scale and would run somewhere between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

Markowitz unveils boro tourism center

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Each year more than 40 million tourists flock to New York City to take in a Broadway play, stroll along Times Square, or visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

And soon, thanks to a new Brooklyn tourist center opening Feb. 12, many of those tourists may be hopping across the East River to catch a Brooklyn Cyclones game, tour the New York Aquarium, also in Coney Island, or grab a piece of cheesecake at Junior's on Flatbush Avenue.

Borough President Marty Markowitz announced the new Brooklyn tourism and visitors' center on Wednesday at the New York Marriott Brooklyn on Adams Street downtown.

The center will be housed on the first floor of Borough Hall, at 209 Joralemon St. at Court Street.

"You can see the entire world and stay in Brooklyn," said the ever-ebullient Markowitz addressing about 90 business owners and representatives of cultural institutions who joined him for breakfast at the hotel.

In addition to selling Brooklyn to Brooklyn, Markowitz hopes the new center will help sell the borough "to the world."

Thirty volunteers and two staff members will run the center, which will also sell Brooklyn-related merchandise.

The center is being funded by the borough president's office, NYC & Co., the city's official tourist board, and a number of grants raised by Best of Brooklyn, a non-profit organization.

Some business owners are hopeful the new venture will help bring tourists to Brooklyn, and keep them here.

"We get literally thousands of people coming



Borough President Marty Markowitz at Wednesday's announcement of a Brooklyn tourism office.

to the brewery each year for tours and special events," said Steve Hindy, president of Brooklyn Brewery, which has been making beer in the borough for more than 15 years. "On the average, 10 to 20 percent of people [visiting the brewery in Williamsburg] are coming from outside the country."

Hindy, who co-chaired the steering committee for the tourism center, hopes the new initiative will help tourists discover the other options in the borough and also bring more traffic to his brewery.

Organizers are also gearing up to launch a Web site to help guide visitors through Brooklyn's neighborhoods and attractions, Hindy said.

Keeping the Best Teachers in City Classrooms

By Randi Weingarten



Study after study shows that, with the exception of parents, the single most important ingredient in a child's success in school is the quality of the teacher in each classroom.

We at the United Federation of Teachers have some specific ideas about how to help make our schools better, make teaching more effective and - perhaps surprisingly - how to help people for whom teaching is not the right career.

Helping students succeed

Most of this city's teachers are extraordinary people who work hard to help their students succeed. Just last month, the results of annual nationwide math and reading tests showed that our public school students outperformed students in other major urban school systems across the nation. And earlier this month, the number of low performing schools in the city, cited by the state, reached an all-time low - down to 46 from a high of more than 100.

Good teachers are leaving in droves. We're now seeing a record number of retirements among our most experienced teachers. And every year for the past five years approximately 20 percent of our new teachers haven't returned for a second year while 35 percent don't make it past their third year. This combination of newer talented teachers resigning and older more seasoned professionals retiring has become a formula for disaster.

Professional salary and respect

In order to ensure a qualified instructor in every classroom the city should start by providing a

salary that enables teachers to live a middle class life without a second or third job. Even with the pay increases we got in our last contract - which expired last summer - New York City school teachers still earn \$10,000 to \$15,000 less than their colleagues in surrounding areas.

Second, the city needs to treat teaching as a real profession. Currently, the only way for a teacher to advance is to leave the classroom for an administrative post. The teaching profession should have a career ladder similar to what you see in the medical profession.

Third, administrators should respect teachers' professionalism. Today, even the most experienced and highly-educated teachers are being told what colors to use on their bulletin boards, where to place wastepaper baskets and how to arrange classroom chairs. This micro-managing directly contributes to the retention crisis.

Helping struggling teachers

The city also must do a better job of helping struggling teachers. City Hall and the Department of Education constantly charge that the teachers' union or the union contract drags out disciplinary hearings to get rid of bad teachers, but it's the school system that needlessly stretches out the process. And while newspaper accounts might imply a large number of incompetent teachers, in any given year only about 1,000 people are given unsatisfactory ratings. Another 200 to 300 teachers are cited for charges that can range from chronic absenteeism to corporal punishment.

That's fewer than 2 percent of the city's 80,000 teachers.

Over the past several contracts we've worked out methods designed to cut the time needed to adjudicate such charges, but the education department still insists it can't complete these cases in less than two years.

Here's our common sense and humane way to solve these problems:

The education department should stand aside and allow the union to work with these teachers. If we can't help them within 90 days, we would recommend that they no longer teach and we would help them find employment in other professions.

This proposal is based on a program that we've run successfully on a limited basis for 15 years.

Ending the backlog

At the same time, more than 200 teachers accused of other serious offenses, regardless of their innocence or guilt, are out of the classroom languishing in education department offices around the city - so-called rubber rooms - for years in some cases.

The education department and the union should jointly appoint a special master to work with a staff of pro bono attorneys to hear such cases and get rid of the backlog promptly. At the same time, all controversies - be they disciplinary cases or contract disputes - could be handled within three to six months between the accusation (or dispute) and resolution. Such a step would help ensure that justice is done in a timely way. And the dollars that are saved could be used for supplies, equipment and lowering class size.

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BAM celebrates King's dream

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

If Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were alive today he would be 75.

And while the civil rights pioneer made great strides during his short lifetime, this country still has a long way to go when it comes to race relations and racial equality.

That message was carried by elected officials and speakers taking the stage at the city's largest Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration, hosted each year by the Brooklyn Academy of Music at the Howard Gilman Opera House in Fort Greene.

More than 2,000 people packed the auditorium with hundreds more turned away at the door.

Politicians, musicians and business leaders took turns honoring the late civil rights leader, who was assassinated 38 years ago in Memphis, Tenn.

"If Dr. King were here today he would be thrilled at this kind of event. He would also be terribly disappointed, because we have come very far but we certainly have left an awful lot of people behind," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who also addressed celebrations across the city.

Touting education as a remedy, Bloomberg said one of the only ways to level the playing field is through education. Stressing education as a key mayoral priority when he took office two years ago, Bloomberg successfully fought to have local school boards abolished and control of the vast school system consolidated under his control.



Musician Wynton Marsalis makes his keynote speech at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on Monday.

"Education is a civil right; it's just as important as voting," Bloomberg said. "We cannot dumb-down our expectations, we have to do something about the school system and we have to do it now and I'm going to take on that challenge."

But among the day's most impassioned speeches were remarks by jazz musician Wynton Marsalis, a Pulitzer Prize-winner and nine-time Grammy

Award-winner, who put down his hom and addressed the audience in a speech that rivaled even the spirit of his music.

Comparing King to President Abraham Lincoln, Marsalis said, "Both determined to make the Constitution mean what it says, and both ultimately sacrificed their lives in pursuit of the people's democracy."

Marsalis touted the "oratory genius" of King, whose best-

known speech, "I Have a Dream," was delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., just over 40 years ago.

But in a society accustomed to shortcuts, Marsalis said we have "reduced a famous speech to just four words."

"First and foremost Dr. Reverend Martin Luther King was an activist. He became known not because he dreamed, but because he acted," said Marsalis, adding his belief that some of the radical aspects of King's vision have been reversed by the violence of Hollywood films and the "brutality of some contemporary music."

Previous celebration speakers have included United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Myrtle Evers-Williams, widow of slain civil rights worker Medgar Evers.

Elected officials taking the podium at Monday's event each took the opportunity to rally behind a particular cause.

City Council Speaker Gifford Miller, of Manhattan, pushed for education while state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer vowed to fight against "predatory lending" practices in Brooklyn and throughout the state.

Borough President Marty Markowitz remembered two

Fort Greene council members who died last year — Mary Pinkett, the first black woman elected to the City Council, and her successor, James Davis, who was slain inside City Hall by a deranged political rival last summer.

While protesters gathered outside the theater to rally

against a plan to bring the New Jersey Nets to Brooklyn and build an arena just blocks from BAM, Markowitz lauded the plan, which would realize his dream of returning a major league sports team to the borough and vowed to help secure jobs for minority communities.

While most speakers received a hearty round of applause it was a fiery performance by the Boys Choir of Harlem, along with a capella performers. The Persuasions, that had some audience members jumping out of their seats.

Shouting words of encouragement, the audience showed support for choir founder and president Walter Turnbull who has recently been under fire for allegedly ignoring evidence that a top staffer abused a 13-year-old choirboy.

"We love you," shouted one audience member as Turnbull lifted his hands to lead the choir in a rendition of "Precious Lord."

While Turnbull declined to comment to reporters about the sex scandal, he had plenty to say onstage. "I ain't about singing, it's about helping these boys to survive in this society," said Turnbull, who ended the day's performance with a round of "We Shall Overcome."

On the way out of the theater, Janice Coleman, of Williamsburg, who brought her 9-year-old grandson Andre to the day's festivities stopped to get a King poster with the entire "I Have a Dream" speech printed on it.

"I wanted him to know about the legacy," Coleman said.

Don't take my coop to build arena for nets

LETTERS

has come to life.

Prospect Heights is a shining example of positive community redevelopment, representing the fulfillment of the American dream for all who participated. This egregious use of eminent domain can only be construed as a land grab for a private project, no matter what the effect on our borough's self esteem that having a sports team might generate. And all at the expense of those of us who invested our all in performing this small miracle.

Then there is the equally egregious use of Tax Incremental Financing, which would shift the burden of financing the entire project to the taxpayers of New York. Much has been written by economists of this fantasy scheme that never results in a positive outcome for taxpayers, that really is a form of developer's welfare that shifts existing tax dollars to the development at the expense of other needed programs.

Then there is the fairness, echoed in the media, that Mr. Ratner will compensate all of us who are displaced. Given this city's and Mr. Ratner's history of employing eminent domain as a club in their negotiations with property owners, who will intervene in our behalf after we have received the anticipated low offer? And will his offer recompense us for the considerable expenses we are only beginning to incur in our struggle to fight this assault on our Constitutional right to own property?

The saddest fact of all is that this is no unnecessary. Mr. Ratner already owns sufficient property in the neighborhood to realize his dream without destroying ours. His own failed Atlantic Center Mall, failed in that his major anchor is now the Department of Motor Vehicles, after a succession of department stores have given up, can be converted to an arena if extended over Atlantic Avenue.

The most egregious fact of all is that Mr. Ratner has yet to meet with anyone in this neighborhood, all of whom would eagerly support a rational development plan for the LIRR yard behind our homes.

There is no doubt in any of our minds that the area can be developed in a fashion that complies the significant efforts of those who have preceded Mr. Ratner.

Prospect Heights

Architects back Ratner's plan

To the editor:

The Brooklyn Chapter of the American Institute of Architects would like to commend Borough President Markowitz for his position, as stated in your paper, on bringing a major professional basketball team to Brooklyn. The chapter wholeheartedly endorses the borough president's contention that bringing the Nets to Brooklyn will enhance both Brooklyn's prestige and its economic development. Although we would welcome having the Nets in Brooklyn in any one of several locations, we agree that the location chosen over the LIRR rail yards makes good planning sense, and is probably the best location in Brooklyn for a sports facility.

The chapter also looks forward to seeing a Frank Gehry building in Brooklyn, and we enthusiastically support the borough president's efforts to bring the Nets to Brooklyn.

L. Donald Winston, Chairman
Urban Design Committee, AIA Brooklyn

Nets plan's Slope connection

To the editor:

After almost a year of feeling like a "voice crying in the wilderness," or, at the very least, the local neighborhood loony, I am at once encouraged and newly angered.

In our fight to preserve what had made our neighborhood below Fifth Avenue in Park Slope a wonderful place to live for many years, there seems little hope left. However, the proposal for the Nets stadium is, apparently, large enough and destructive enough to wake up the people.

The rezoning that has already taken place along Fourth Avenue, the construction that has been ongoing on so many of our blocks below Fifth Avenue, and the news coverage that ignores the lives of those of us who have been here all along, give the sense of our neighborhood being raped, with our elected officials running for the rapists. It might be too late for us. Maybe a project as obviously enormous and obvious as the proposed stadium will at least stop this juggernaut where it is.

To Mr. Markowitz I would suggest that we all know which road is paved with good intentions. When the rezoning of Park Slope was under discussion, good intentions took us right down that famous road. We would have hoped that you had learned from that experience that well-intentioned hopes for improving the borough you love are no match for the animality that comes with lust for power, fame and extreme wealth. We no longer trust your ability to do what is best for Brooklyn, and those being the most immediately threatened by the arena are coming to the same conclusion.

This summer, when you visited our block party, I walked you to a six-story building under construction on our block of one- to three-story homes. I will never forget the look on your face when you saw it. That's half the size of buildings now allowed on Fourth Avenue — and by zoning law, 100 feet into our blocks. Whoops!

Somewhat, we thought you might have had a disastrous, but honest mistake. The new arena, though, gives us pause.

I sincerely believe you were NOT elected because we thought you could radically change areas of Brooklyn that were already doing quite nicely, thank you. You were elected because our perception was that you valued our history, lifestyle and pride in what has been accomplished, not by the city, but by your borough's citizens. We're tired and resentful that after years of vigilance against crime, prejudice and economic hardship to build our neighborhoods, we must now be as vigilant to protect them against our government.

You say you "don't want anyone ever leaving Brooklyn for anything." For the first time in 25 years, we're beginning to think it's our only choice. Our neighbors have been talking about it, too. Trendy, over-priced, over-built, and both racially and economically gentrified are what we opted out of when we moved here. Maybe it's inevitable. Your celebration of it isn't.

—Christine Napolitan, Park Slope

Marty, see you on Election Day

To the editor:

You advise us that Borough President Marty Markowitz is enthusiastic about the possible "arena" plan, which would mean the destruction of a large segment of Brooklyn, displacement of thousands of residents and enough air-pollution to choke the rest of us!

Perhaps Mr. Markowitz should recall that he was elected to his office. Regular protest by many Brooklynites should be a signal that the plan is NOT popular.

Next Election Day Mr. Markowitz may take the hint. Hopefully a candidate will win the office on a platform of "No more skyscrapers and no arena!" —Lily Samuels, Brooklyn Heights

Gimme back my \$100 contribution

To the editor:

Marty Markowitz was resoundingly elected Brooklyn borough president two and one-half years ago on the reputation he built over the course of his 23 years in the state Senate for being that rare political creature: a reformer and a politician. "While other politicians cloak themselves in the pretensions of power, Marty was 'one of us.'"

How well I remember his campaign, which I volunteered for, and to which I proudly wrote a \$100 check. I went for Marty because his issues concerned us: affordable housing, tenants' rights, overcrowded schools, youth centers and assisted-living facilities for the elderly and ill. Lately, Marty has been saying he campaigned on bringing a major sports team to Brooklyn.

I don't remember his talking about it, nor did it appear in his literature as far as I know.

Marty, you sold out. You, who were one of us, now are one of them, cloaked in pretension.

P.S. Marty, could you return my \$100, please? —Schelle Haglan, Prospect Heights

Breeder gave up on dog too soon

To the editor:

In the article headlined "A doggone shame" (Jan. 17), a Park Slope breeder made an appointment with his veterinarian when his prize-winning French Bulldog, Alice, showed the first signs of pain.

He had apparently asked the doctor to euthanize the animal but was "too distraught to stay and watch Alice take her last breaths." Two months later, he returned to the vet to recover the ashes, only to find out that Alice was not put to sleep but was, instead, secretly and informally adopted by the veterinarian. The owner wanted to recover the dog but was rebuffed by the doctor.

Let your readers sympathize with the man who owned the dog for 11 years, there's a gap in the telling of the story that makes quite a bit of difference. Did the owner ask the vet whether the cancer was treatable, since the dog was merely showing the first signs of pain? (Obviously it was, since Alice is still alive months later.)

While the doctor should, in fairness, return the dog, her owner might realize that a vet (to my knowledge) is not compelled to fulfill any and all orders to put dogs to sleep. Though the doctor acted unethically by assuming title to Alice, Mr. Robertson's haste to put a "Frenchy" to death at the very first sign of pain is both hasty and irresponsible.

—Harvey Karm, Concord Village

Send us a letter

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By e-mail:

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All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's neighborhood and street name are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Jewish International Film Festival

Brooklyn Heights Jewish International Film Festival explores Jewish issues through fine films of artistic excellence. We seek to examine universal Jewish themes through post-film dialogue with directors, actors, filmmakers, critics and scholars.

Saturday, February 7, 2004 • 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Schmelvis: In search of Elvis Presley's Jewish Roots (2001)

Director: Max Wallace; Canada • Runtime: 76 minutes; MPAA Rating: Not Rated

Was "The King" kosher? Investigating the claim that his great-great grandmother was Jewish leads a diverse group of Montrealers, including an ultra Orthodox and Jewish Elvis impersonator, a Rabbi and the filmmakers, on a quest to Memphis to find out what Elvis fans think of this revelation. (He did wear a Chat around his neck.) By the time the group heads off to Israel to plant a tree for Elvis, it all comes to a head. Funny, suspenseful and wickedly witty, Schmelvis brings a unique spin on celebrity, Judaism and religious perceptions. It's a hoot.

Post-film concert and dialogue with Schmelvis, the world famous Orthodox Jewish Elvis impersonator.

Saturday, February 14, 2004 • 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Welcome to the Waks Family (2002)

Director: Barbara Chobodsky; Australia • Runtime: 52 minutes; MPAA Rating: Not Rated

With 17 children from the same two parents, the Orthodox Waks family is one of Australia's largest. Everyday life in the Waks household is a logistical challenge of monumental proportions. Having two mini buses for transportation and five ovens for kosher cooking helps. The director followed the warm and lively Waks family over years and was privy to the wedding of the eldest daughter and the struggle of one son to break away from the religious life of his parents.

Post-film dialogue with Waks family member, Yossi Waks.

Saturday, February 21, 2004 • 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

One Day in September (1999)

Director: Kevin Macdonald; USA • Runtime: 92 minutes; MPAA Rating: Not Rated

Munich, August 1972. The Olympics of peace and joy commence, symbolizing Germany's post war rehabilitation in the eyes of the international community. But ten days into the games, eight Palestinian terrorist break in and take eleven Israeli athletes hostage, demanding the release of hundreds of political prisoners. As the world watches, the West German Police plan to overpower the raiders. This Academy Award-winning documentary includes archive footage, eyewitness testimony, and the only interview ever recorded with the sole surviving member of the terrorist group.

Post-film dialogue with Simcha Weinstein, former associate of the British Film Commission.

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D'TOWN...

Continued from page 1

already clogging the streets of Downtown Brooklyn, the committee laid out two pages of concerns. One member called the \$100 million city investment "chicken feed" and said millions more would have to be pumped into the plan to make it work.

Those recommendations were brought to the Land Use committee meeting the next night where local residents, community board members and representatives from the lead city agencies on the project — the Department of City Planning and the Economic Development Corporation — packed the conference room at the NYC College of Technology on Jay Street.

"Scale it back," Land Use committee member Judy Stanton said at 10 p.m. 21 meeting. Stanton is also executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association. "We need to make sure that we are not ruining what we spent years and years building up," she said.

The city is looking to seize seven acres of land including 130 residential units and 100 businesses to make way for new developments.

The plan identifies four Urban Renewal areas where the city could exercise its powers of eminent domain to condemn and seize private properties.

Tensions flared during the more than three-hour meeting Wednesday as the Land Use committee chairman and vice-chairman, Bill Vinicombe and Ernest Augustus, respectively, geared the committee towards a yes vote.

But many members said the plan was moving ahead too quickly and that more time was needed to fully study the effects on the surrounding neighborhoods.

Responding to the loss of 21,000 city jobs to New Jersey in the 1990s, the Bloomberg administration announced the plans last April. City Planning certified the plan early last month, starting the application through the seven-month Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), which includes public hearings before the community board, borough president, City Planning Commission and City Council.

The mayor has pledged that the city would fund the estimated \$100 million in infrastructure improvements and construction over the next 10 years, with much of it coming in the first few years, but the project would still be largely dependent on market conditions and the ability to lure business and developers.

Some critics fear the city only studied the effects of a partial build-out. While the Downtown Brooklyn Plan allows for nearly 7 million square feet of new office space, the city is only taking 4.5 million square feet into consideration in evaluating the environmental impacts in its 700-page ULURP application — a difference equivalent to more than the square footage of the Empire State Building.

According to Regina Myer, director of the Brooklyn office of City Planning, the plan takes into consideration expected development over the next 10 years.

"None of us have a crystal ball," Myer said. "We can't predict what traffic will be like in 45 or 50 years."

Others worried that the plan did not take into account the traffic and environmental impacts of the proposed Atlantic Yards complex — the colossal, 17-tower residential and commercial complex that Ratner is looking to put up in Prospect Heights, starting with the tower at the corner of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues, that would have as its centerpiece a professional basketball arena to house the NBA's Nets, which he is set to purchase with the hope of bringing them to Brooklyn.

While the CB2 Parks and Land Use committees ultimately voted in favor of upzoning the area, they voted down changes to the urban renewal areas, which would allow the city to condemn and seize property. Those votes, if echoed by the full board, would effectively block another aspect of the plan. Willowby Square, the centerpiece of the plan with respect to public and green space, which would require the taking of private property.

Last week, more than 400 people packed a public hearing to protest the plan. Many people who would lose their homes and businesses vented that the plan was unfair.

"We spent years developing this property. We want to leave this as a legacy to our children," Dr. Harry Blaustein, who owns a three-story commercial building on Livingston Street, said at the Jan. 15 public hearing.

Although the community board plays only an advisory role in the ULURP process, a City Planning spokesman said its concerns would be considered.

January 24, 2004

THE BROOKLYN PAPERS • WWW.BROOKLYNPAPERS.COM

AWP 5

N.J. officials see no economic harm from team's departure

By Jeffrey Gold

Associated Press

New Jersey's economy could actually get a boost if the likely new owner of the New Jersey Nets succeeds in moving the team to Brooklyn, Garden State officials and an economist said Thursday.

A planned \$1.4 billion makeover of the site now occupied by the Nets' home at the Meadowlands Sports Complex will produce economic activity "that will dwarf whatever the Nets generate," said James W. Hughes, dean of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University.

In addition, "The dollars that people will spend going to the Nets game will simply be spent somewhere else in northern New Jersey. So if you don't go to the Nets game, you spend it at a restaurant or somewhere else," he said.

The state loses \$2 million to \$2.5 million a year from its lease with the Nets at the Continental Airlines Arena, said George R. Zoffinger, president of the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority.

"We think that the economic

impact will be minimal to the state and to the sports authority itself," he said.

The Meadowlands would still be home to the New York Giants and New York Jets of the NFL, a horse racing track and the NHL's New Jersey Devils, which have shared the arena with the Nets.

The state would nevertheless seek another professional sport, possibly including baseball, for the complex, Zoffinger said.

The Nets will not be leaving immediately, in any case. The team missed the deadline to escape its lease prior to its 2006 expiration, Zoffinger said. A move sooner than that would require a negotiated buyout.

The winning bidder, developer Bruce Ratner, still must sign an agreement with Community Youth Organization, which owns the Nets. Then the reported \$300 million deal must be ratified by the board of YankeeStadium, the holding company of the Nets and New York Yankees, which is to meet Friday, as well as NBA owners.

Finally, Ratner still needs a multitude of permits from New York City and state before he can construct an arena for the team in Brooklyn.



Atlantic Yards architect Frank Gehry flanks design models of his skyscraper-enclosed sports arena, at a press conference in December.

Ratner topped the other remaining bidder, a New Jersey-based group led by real estate developer Charles Kushner, which had pledged to keep the team in New Jersey. The group included U.S. Sen. Jon S. Corzine, D-N.J.

"The Nets are an excellent team that reinforced our state's winning identity," the senator said in a statement. "The players wear New Jersey proudly on their uniforms, and I am equally proud to call myself a fan. Like thousands of others, I feel a real sense of loss and disappointment today."

A spokesman for Kushner said he had no immediate comment on Thursday.

Their effort got no assistance from the state, said Micah Rasmussen, a spokesman for Gov. James E. McGreevey.

That is where the governor drew the line. He made it very clear that we would not get involved in subsidizing bids, or bidders, or wealthy team owners," Rasmussen said.

He said the privately financed Xanadu sports, retail and entertainment development at the Meadowlands, as well as a planned rail link and arena renovations, will make the site even better.

RATNER...

Continued from page 1

rules and was told there would be ample time to negotiate a deal. Clearly, there wasn't."

Purchasing the team is just the first step of Ratner's sweeping plan to construct a \$2.5 billion arena and office complex at the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues stretching into Prospect Heights.

In addition to the Frank Gehry-designed arena, the project would include 17 towers — reaching as tall as 60 stories — with 4,500 units of housing down the line.

If all goes according to plan, a Ratner spokesman said, the team should be playing in Brooklyn by 2007.

During the season the team

would play half of its 82 games at the arena and up to an additional 10 games if the team went all the way to the NBA finals. During the off days, a Ratner spokesman said, the arena could be used for high school and college sports, concerts, ice shows, conventions and graduations.

This week's decision caps six months of negotiations to purchase the team, which despite faltering sales has won the Eastern Conference championship the past two seasons.

Over the past few weeks, former Knicks and Nets great Bernard King, a Fort Greene native who attended Fort Hamilton High School in Bay Ridge, toured the city as a

booster for Ratner's bid.

Rap star Jay-Z, who has announced his retirement from performing, is also an investor in the plan along with Vincent Viola, chairman of the New York Mercantile Exchange.

But not everybody is thrilled with the proposal. "We're going to fight this," said Dan Mahachuk, a graphic designer and spokesman for Develop Don't Destroy, a group of tenants and owners who live on the blocks that would be taken.

Over the past month, the group has been meeting with attorneys and is weighing legal options.

Another group, the Prospect

Heights Action Coalition, an early opponent of the arena plan, has collected more than 5,000 signatures against building the arena at Flatbush and Atlantic avenues.

But residents won't be the only hurdle for Ratner, who is best known for developing the Metrotech office complex in Downtown Brooklyn and far less visionary Atlantic Center mall, also at Flatbush and Atlantic avenues.

Ratner must first secure development rights from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to build over the Long Island Rail Road yards along Atlantic Avenue.

He would also need the Empire State Development Corporation to condemn and seize property along the blocks from Flatbush to Vanderbilt avenues between Pacific and Dean

streets, something both city and state officials have indicated a willingness to do in order to realize the arena plan, which is being called the Atlantic Yards project.

"We have to be careful on how we use taxpayer money for stadiums or arenas," said Empire State Development Corp. chairman Charles Gargano, who will direct state involvement in the project.

"Sometimes we can help with infrastructure, we can help in other ways, but at this point we don't know," Gargano said shortly after a meeting with Gov. George Pataki on Thursday afternoon. "It remains to be seen what's coming up and what happens."

Pataki, Mayor Bloomberg, Sen. Charles Schumer and Markowitz have all rallied behind the plan, but Council

woman Letitia James and state Sen. Velmae Montgomery, whose districts encompass the planned arena and tower sites, are fiercely opposed.

State involvement could help Ratner avoid much of the city's lengthy and stringent land-use approval process. Opponents said that is one of a number of advantages Ratner has because of his political connections.

Ratner has held high-level positions in two mayoral administrations, and was once appointed by Pataki to study the possibility of luring pro sports back to Brooklyn.

Said James, "There's a notion that he's not going to have any problems getting MTA approval because of his relationship with the governor."

— with Brooklyn Papers wire reports

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In Gardens, mayor plays bocce with seniors



By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

When Mayor Michael Bloomberg made a pit stop in Carroll Gardens this week he was met by a radically different-looking group of questioners than the usual press corps.

Armed with plates of mashed potatoes and fish files, and with an average age hovering around 75, seniors at the Eileen Dugan Senior Citizens Center grilled Bloomberg Tuesday when he stopped in at lunchtime to say hello.

And they didn't go easy on him either. Questioning everything from the property tax hike to the proposed professional basketball arena in Prospect Heights, the seniors topped off the visit with a heated game of bocce in the basement.

While Sal Noto, 86, and Marco Valenti, 81, said they had pretty much

given up the old Italian game in favor of more leisurely games of cards, the two men, near daily regulars at the center at Court and President streets, gave it a go with the billionaire mayor.

The presence of huzzoner did little to deter Noto and Valenti from arguing over whose turn it was to throw the ball or whose ball landed closest to the "pallino," or target ball.

"You sound like the City Council," Bloomberg told the bickering retirees. After the game, the three gentlemen went to examine the final results.

"Let the record show it was tie," said a diplomatic Bloomberg. Asked about the mayor's job performance so far, Noto said, "If I had his money I'd be doing a great job, too."

Noto added, however, that he was impressed the Upper East Side mayor knew how to play the South Brooklyn game.



At left, Mayor Michael Bloomberg tosses a bocci ball in the basement of the Eileen Dugan Senior Citizens Center at 380 Court St. in Carroll Gardens as Marco Valenti looks on. Above, Valenti and Sal Noto (center) give the mayor tips on pitching the perfect roll.

Nab landlord in TV camera grab

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

The owner of an apartment building in Dyker Heights was arrested last Wednesday after he allegedly tried snatching a television camera from a WNBC-TV news crew that was interviewing a tenant who claimed he had not had heat for the past two weeks.

Joseph Maratea, the part owner and manager of the building on 13th Avenue at 77th Street, was arrested Jan. 14 shortly after 12:30 p.m. and charged with grand larceny, according to the criminal complaint filed with the district attorney's office. Juan Delosrios, the NBC cameraman, pressed charges.

John Noel, the reporter on the story, said that the altercation happened after he and Delosrios met with a tenant to discuss the claims. With tape rolling, Noel interviewed the tenant in a lobby, but when they tried to climb the stairs leading to his apartment, Maratea allegedly passed them both and headed for the cameraman.

"He ends up jumping the cameraman, and he's trying to pull the camera away from him," said Noel, 52, a Brooklyn native who discussed the incident with The Brooklyn Papers this week after wrapping up a segment on the Martha Stewart trial.

"That's when a three-way scuffle happened," said Noel. "During the scuffle, I called 911." Police said that after a brief struggle over the \$3,000 camera, Maratea, 27, let go and ran down the stairs and into the passenger side of a 2002 Cadillac SUV, which headed west on 78th Street. The camera, still rolling,

caught it all, including the car's license plate number.

"The guy never said, 'Hey, what are you doing?' This is my building," said Noel. "If the guy would've said something, we would have stopped the tape, called the [news] desk and the desk would've probably told us to cut him off."

Vincent Romano, an attorney representing Maratea, said that Noel and Delosrios had filmed inside the building without permission and were trespassing.

"My client didn't steal the reporter's camera, nor did

he intend to," said Romano. "He was merely attempting to remove them from the property because he considered them trespassers."

And while the tenant's cold-weather complaint never saw the light of day, or at least broadcast, Noel said that a segment with others he spoke with who had similar complaints aired later that day.

"When you look at it, he wanted to stop us from doing this story," said Noel. "He never said anything, he just grabbed."

D'town 'Cops of Year'

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Three officers from the 84th Precinct received top honors this week for outstanding police work in 2003.

Police Officers Jason Palamara, Bryan Mulladay and Oscar Polanco registered almost 100 arrests last year in the precinct area covering Downtown Brooklyn, DUMBO and Brooklyn Heights. Those arrests, along with their outstanding police work, landed them cop of the year honors.

At a ceremony at Borough Hall Tuesday evening, Borough President Marty Markowitz and Councilman David Yassky lauded the officers and handed over special certificates in their honor.

Deputy Inspector Christopher Rising, commanding officer of the 84th Precinct, thanked the men for their "heroism, courage and commitment to service."

Palamara, 25, a uniformed police officer who goes out on routine patrol responding to 911 calls and local emergencies, logged 25 arrests in 2003.

With just three years on the job, Palamara—who was accompanied Tuesday night by his wife and daughter—said he was surprised and honored to receive the award.

"We work as a team," said Mulladay, 33, a plainclothes officer working in the anti-crime unit, which often deals with many of the most dangerous offenders.

After-effect of divorce

Dear John:

Four years ago, I walked away from a horrible marriage. Unfortunately, I had to leave my two children with my ex-husband. I have been in and out of court trying to get custody of my children and to lower the child support my ex-husband expects me to pay. Because of his vindictiveness, I have seen my children only once since then, although he allows them to call me once a week.

I moved out of state with a man with whom I had a platonic friendship. We have since started an intimate relationship. Through my various court battles, "Bill" has been by my side. But lately, he's grown distant. Our love-making has deteriorated. We both want to move on but he can't do this until this situation is resolved.

My ex-husband is jealous. He swears that my children will never meet Bill. I am at a loss. I love Bill with all my heart, but should I walk away from this man and let him have his life?

—Lonely in Alabama

Dear Lonely:

Life's setbacks can indeed pull couples apart or draw them together.

A man wants to be the "knight in shining armor" and solve all of your problems. Unfortunately, divorce—espe-

cially those in which children and money are issues—are complicated and take time to resolve. Over the years, Bill has watched your anxiety grow. He must be feeling some frustration over the fact that he hasn't been able to "fix" the situation for you.

Although he is powerless to change the legal issues involving your case, he needs to know that he has been instrumental in supporting your emotional well-being. Reinforce to him your appreciation for all that he has done. Whenever you get upset about this issue, challenge yourself to move beyond your negative feelings and onto more positive ones—which Bill has been instrumental in helping to provide.

Dear John: My husband smokes. I am a light sleeper, and as I am getting older, I seem to have many sleepless nights that leave me a "next-day zombie." It is no fun. I am convinced that his snoring is worse when he drinks alcohol. I cannot ask him to stop drinking, as he has already cut back drastically!

We have discussed sleeping separately, but I interpret this as if he is choosing alcohol over sleeping with me. He gets offended when I say that, but I'm still sensitive about this. We love each other, and

**MEN ARE FROM MARS
WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS**
By John Gray

we love to be close, so this is a frustrating problem. I am trying to resolve my sleep problems with my doctor, but nothing seems to work. Can you offer any thoughts?

—Sleepless in California

Dear Sleepless:

Believe his response. If he did not want to sleep with you, he could always find other excuses. The medical industry has made impressive strides in efforts to reduce or eliminate snoring.

If your husband truly wants to accommodate you, suggest that he get a referral from your doctor to a specialist for this procedure.

Many people find that, as they reach 50 or older, it is nice to sleep alone periodically. By doing so, you may enjoy the nights you spend together more. In your case, it might actually work as a mini-vacation. On the days that you decide to stick it out, you may also consider an old-fashioned remedy: earplugs.

Advice from bipolar moms

Q: I want to know more about bipolar disorder in children. My son, who is 7, takes four medications for it. I've tried to learn about it, but I still don't understand. —a mother

A: When Cindy Singer's out-of-control daughter was diagnosed with bipolar disorder at age 6, the mother went on a journey to learn all she could to help her child. The path, many times, was dark.

I went on a mission to educate myself, to give myself some sort of control over this monster that was invading my child's mind, body and soul," she says.

The mother's journey—through violent tantrums and her child's suicide threats—began with no "how-to-manual" for parents, Singer says. Her new book, "If Your Child is Bipolar" (Perspective Publishing, 2003, co-written with Sheryl Garrett), is full of what she learned over the years as she helped her daughter, now a teenager.

Parents have a lot to learn to

be effective players on their child's treatment team, the authors report. After all, they've got to dole out any medications as needed and watch for side effects, coordinate appointments, track behavior, and provide meals and bedtime routines.

Living with an unstable bipolar loved one isn't easy, but understanding the mental illness. Bipolar disorder, formerly



By Betsy Flieger



known as manic depression, is caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain.

Researchers continue to explore the mysteries of the illness and how medication works as part of a multifaceted treatment plan to smooth out quirky brain chemistry.

Unlike adults with the disorder, kids have rapid mood swings within the course of a day and at times react to "no" with rage for 30 minutes or more, says Demetri Papadopoulos, MD, co-author with his wife of "The Bipolar Child" (Broadway, 2002).

The aggression and daily ups and downs don't match the adult patterns of bipolar disorder, weeks of extreme highs and lows, Papadopoulos says.

The disorder impairs how a child functions in school, with peers, and at home.

The disorder is treatable but a diagnosis can be tricky: Bipolar disorder and ADHD (attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder) symptoms observed in children

overlap but have different causes and call for different treatments, psychiatrists have found.

For example, one 8-year-old girl could not pay attention long enough to write her name and begin an assignment. Misdiagnosed as ADHD given a stimulant, her father says, her brain raced out of control.

She went into a kicking, screaming rage. Now she is being assessed for bipolar disorder. A key part of the medical assessment: The child's family history shows depression, bipolar disorder and other mood disorders on both sides of her family, as well as alcoholism.

Tips for more information: "A mother whose daughter was diagnosed at age 15, is among several parents who recommend 'The Bipolar Child,' and the Web site for the Child and Adolescent Bipolar Foundation, www.cabf.org.

The foundation is led by parents, and can be a source of information as well as much-needed emotional support.

• The National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Md., conducts and supports research on early onset bipolar disorder. For more information, call toll-free (866) 615-6464. The Web site is www.nimh.nih.gov.

Can you help?

My husband has his way and I have mine when it comes to parenting our children, a 3-year-old boy and a baby girl. Let's say it's bath time before a day out and our son is watching cartoons. I give him a warning, let him choose a bath toy, and he typically comes within 10 minutes on his own. If my husband is in charge, he drags our son kicking and screaming upstairs with no warning. My approach runs perhaps 10 minutes later, but the process is peaceful and fun. How can we get on the same page?" —a mother

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

January 24, 2004

Bland 'Maiden'

Puppeteers hinder emotion in St. Ann's Warehouse play about victims of atomic bomb

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

In 1955, 25 Japanese women who had been disfigured by keloid burns after the bombing of Hiroshima came to Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Manhattan where they were to undergo reconstructive plastic surgery. The U.S. Air Force provided the transportation, and city Quakers provided the lodging.

These women, known as "Hiroshima Maidens," were brought to the United States through the combined efforts of Norman Cousins who, as editor of the Saturday Review, visited Hiroshima in 1949; Kiyoshi Tanimoto, a Methodist minister; Cousins met on the trip; and the Hiroshima Peace Center Association.

The maidens' stay here caused a media frenzy that climaxed in several of the women appearing, along with Tanimoto's wife and children, on "This Is Your Life," a television show (hosted by Ralph Edwards from 1952 to 1961) that helped famous personalities relive their lives by asking them to identify people from their past after hearing them speak from behind a curtain.

In one of the most bizarre episodes in television history, the Hiroshima Maidens actually met Capt. Robert Lewis, co-pilot of the Enola Gay, the B-29 bomber that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

Lewis was reportedly not told he would meet these women. But before the taping he began to realize what the show's producers were planning and fled the studio. Later he was found in a bar, somehow persuaded to return to the studio (one cannot imagine how) and the taping proceeded.

A surviving tape shows Lewis describing the bombing and how he watched Hiroshima disappear before his eyes. He reports later writing down, "My God, what have we done?"

Dan Hurlin, who wrote and directs "Hiroshima Maiden" — a puppet play at St. Ann's Warehouse through Feb. 1 — first

heard about the Maidens from his friend, historian David Serlin, and couldn't stop thinking about these women, most specifically their extraordinary encounter with Capt. Lewis.

Hurlin, whose previous works dealt with the abuse of power [the 1990 Obie-winning "A Cool Million" and the 1995 "Nothing as powerful as Truth"], traveled to Hiroshima in 2001, met one of the maidens, Michika Yamaoka, who was 15 years old at the time of the bombing, and found in her story the inspiration for "Hiroshima Maiden."

"Hiroshima Maiden" uses elements from Bunraku, a style of narrative puppetry developed in 17th-century Japan, as well as

other graphic and visual devices (dance, posters, slides) all set to the incredible music of Robert Egan, who mixes jazz, Asian, vocal and instrumental music in moving and melodious ways. (Cellist-vocalist Egan is joined by Jeff

Berman and Bill Ruyke.) Given the great drama inherent in his material, it's amazing that so much of "Hiroshima Maiden" is so bland.

Hurlin, who teaches dance and puppetry at Sarah Lawrence College, believes puppets can be more powerful purveyors of human emotion than people. But with nine puppeteers manipulating a handful of smaller-than-life-sized puppets, it's often hard to concentrate on the puppets and not their handlers.

Add to this Hurlin's many graphic tics, and "Hiroshima Maiden" becomes as abstract as E=mc².

Between the scenes from Yamaoka's life, a narrator (Dawn Akemi Saito), sitting by the musicians, tells the story of a young American boy growing up in the '50s, refusing to watch Lucy humiliate herself on "I Love Lucy" (a show Hurlin himself always hated), hiding under his school desk during an emergency drill for a possible nuclear war, and enduring the scathing remarks of his vicious music teacher.

Are these lessons in the different types of degradation humans inflict on themselves



Facing the past: Victims of the bombing of Hiroshima are brought to life through Japanese-style puppetry in "Hiroshima Maiden" at St. Ann's Warehouse.

and others? Do they form Hurlin's picture of what it was like to grow up in the paranoid '50s? Whatever his intentions, these scenes do provide a humorous and much-needed break from the tension and pain of the tragic women's story. And the narrator's imitation of the sounds generated by channel surfing — show, commercial, show, commercial — is an amazing tour-de-force.

Hurlin, a gay man whose ancestors came to America on the Mayflower, claims to view the world both as an outsider and a denizen of the dominant culture. Although this might give him a balanced vision, in "Hiroshima Maiden" it seems to burden him with both the guilt of the European oppressor and the anger of someone who is unable to lay complete claim to his privilege.

There are many aspects to the story of the Maidens that Hurlin leaves out. He doesn't mention that when these young women returned to Japan they were ostracized not only because the bombing of Hiroshima was considered a national shame, but also because they were believed to have committed

an act of betrayal by traveling to America and becoming "Americanized" — on stage shown by having the doctors sew a cut-out dress onto the puppet.

Hurlin barely mentions the role of Cousins, who adopted one of the Japanese women. And he doesn't mention at all the Quakers who opened their hearts and their homes to these visitors from Japan.

As for the bombing of Hiroshima, we see Capt. Lewis in church before boarding the plane, but there is nothing about Japanese actions that may have provoked the bombing, such as the rape of Nanjing, the bombing of Pearl Harbor or the torturing of prisoners.

How much more textured, how much more thoughtful would this story have been had Hurlin presented it in all its complexity?

One suspects "Hiroshima Maiden" is supposed to be about human suffering and reconciliation (remember that meeting between the maidens and the pilot), but to this reviewer it seems more about guilt and expiation. In the end, there's more polemic than poetry in this piece.

MUSIC



Soul man

Brooklyn Academy of Music's "Winter Soul" program on Jan. 24 at 7:30 pm pairs soul legend Sam Moore with newcomer singer-guitarist Raul Midon for a one-night-only performance that promises to put R&B's living history alongside its future.

Moore (pictured), 68, recorded hits such as "Hold On, I'm Coming" and "Soul Man" while part of the Stax Records duo Sam & Dave, with Dave Prater, as well as garnering gold and platinum records and a 1967 Grammy for "Soul Man." Sam & Dave were an inspiration for Dan Akyoyd and John Belushi's Blues Brothers characters. (Prater was killed in a 1988 car accident in Georgia.)

Tickets are \$20 and \$25 for the show at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. For more information call (718) 636-4100.

— Lisa J. Curtis

EVENT



Monkey biz

The Brooklyn Public Library celebrates the Chinese New Year on Jan. 24 with a day of arts and cultural activities. The event will feature a reading by Brooklyn author and illustrator Kam Mak ("My Chinatown: One Year in Poems" (HarperCollins, 2001)), as well as crafts and entertainment for children ages 6 to 12. It runs from 11 am to 1 pm.

(A lion dance from the 2000 celebration at the Central Library is pictured.)

From 2 pm to 4 pm, Ba Ban Chinese Music Society will perform the Chinese opera, "Monkey King," and there will be martial arts, dance, magic and music performances.

At 4 pm, there will be a screening of Zhang Yimou's film "Not One Less," about a young teacher in a rural Chinese village and her heroic efforts to prevent any of her students from dropping out of her class. (The 1999 film is in Chinese with English subtitles.)

The events take place at the Central Library at Grand Army Plaza. For more information, go to the Web site at www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

ART

Strange trip

"From Burma to Brooklyn: New Works by Erica Harris" is on display at the Object Image Gallery (91 Fifth Ave. between Prospect Place and Park Place in Park Slope) through Feb. 8.

A collection of 30 drawings, collages and paintings inspired by the Flatbush artist's year-long tour of Southeast Asia are on display, including the mixed-media work, "Congregation" (2003), pictured.

"I've shown her work for about three years," said gallery director Bob Weiss. "She has an amazingly quirky view of the world, and puts images together in ways you wouldn't think of. I've always loved her work. Asia looks very different through her eyes."

For more information about gallery hours, call (718) 623-2434.

— Lisa J. Curtis



'My God, what have we done?': Written and directed by Dan Hurlin, the play recalls an episode of the television show "This Is Your Life" in which the co-pilot of the Enola Gay met women disfigured by the atomic blast on Hiroshima.

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Neighborhood
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This week:
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Chickenbone Cafe

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BONE (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$4-\$15.

Chickenbone Cafe recently changed chefs and expanded its menu, but it still dishes out original, boldly flavored cuisine in this low-key cafe with a hipster attitude. Great for soup and sandwiches and delicious dishes served with crusty, artisanal bread. The PMF is a sandwich featuring pancetta, mozzarella and roasted tomato; the cavatelli bean puree and truffle bruschetta tops thick, grilled slices of olive bread; and easily downed-salmon and salmon with wasabi aioli smugles against a hearty, faintly sour, pumpkinseed baguette. (There's even a dessert sandwich — bitter-sweet chocolate on brioche, from the grill.) Closed Mondays.

Ciao Bella

138 N. Eighth St. at Bedford Street, (718) 599-
8550. www.ciaobellaweb.com (Disc, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$8-\$24.

Owner Mark Giordano's Ciao Bella Ristorante offers a wide variety of Italian food in a casual, environment. Ciao Bella uses all fresh ingredients in its entrees, which include a number of pasta, meat and seafood dishes. Linguine here all arrive, a black linguine with shrimp in a spicy tomato sauce, rigatoni in a pink sauce with sweet sausage and mushrooms and cotoletta alla Milanese, pan-fried rack of veal with arugula and marinated tomatoes, are three of many popular dishes. Ciao Bella also serves a variety of entrees, sandwiches and salads. The menu begins with baby lamb chops, Tiramisu and Lobster.

Now serving weekend brunch, too. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Ciao Bella is also available for large groups and private parties. Free parking. Giordano encourages artists to contact him about hanging their work in the dining room; the art changes each month.

Cono & Sons

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0168 (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8-\$25.
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Your first impression of Cono & Sons O'Pescatore will be one of elegance, evoked by crisp white tablecloths with napkins pointing heavenward, black lacquered chairs and a beautiful tile floor. As the name suggests, this is a place for serious seafood and Italian cuisine enthusiasts.

Chef Cono Natale's signature dishes include the Contadina, a mouthwatering mixture of veal, sausage, beef and chicken, prepared with peppers, mushrooms and potatoes (\$39.99 for two or more) and the torriola di pesci — clams, shrimp, mussels, whiting, squid and flat of sole served with rice (\$39.95, for at least two people). There's something for everyone: homemade cavatelli, veal chops alla Cono, shrimp fra diavolo and fried scallops. Cappuccino and a traditional Italian dessert (chocolate, spumoni and more) ensure a happy ending. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Io Restaurant and Lounge

119 Kent Ave. at North Seventh Street, (718) 388-3320. www.iorestaurantandlounge.com (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8-\$21.

A century has brought this Williamsburg landmark, whose name means "I" or "me" in Italian, a long way from the saloon's "I've got a wife" was. Furnished with its original oak bar, the restaurant opens up to a formal dining room with a breathtaking view of the Manhattan skyline and a lounge with a live salsa band on Saturdays.

Chef and co-owner John Mancuso's primarily Italian dinner menu navigates pleasantly between home cooking and fine dining. Try the shrimp capriccio appetizer and these entrees: lobster ravioli and grilled pork tenderloin with sweet potato hash. Open Wednesdays through Sundays for dinner and brunch on Sundays.

★ = Full review available at

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Abbreviation Key: AmEx=American Express, DC=Diner's Club, Disc=Discover Card, MC=MasterCard, Visa=Visa Card

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Sample sale

Smith Street restaurant
Sample serves up flavorful
dishes — without a kitchen!

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

The logical sequel to Biscuit, a successful, southern-style barbecue restaurant in Prospect Heights that serves biscuits, fried chicken and ribs, would be a spin-off of the first, with, perhaps the addition of a wood-lined pit for slow roasting.

Owners Maio Martinez and Josh Cohen set it differently. Instead of another down-home eatery, they opened Sample on Smith Street in October, a restaurant without a kitchen (there's a microwave oven behind the bar for reheating) and without cooking.

Using as a prototype Quinet, a long-standing restaurant and bar in Midland that specializes in conserved (conserved foods either canned, smoked, jarred or in some way preserved, Martinez and Cohen offer

a menu of savory small bites — call it antipasti, tapas or meze — sourced worldwide. The "cooking" consists of slicing, simple plating, the sprinkling of sea salt and occasionally warming something in the microwave.

"This is the way Josh and I love to eat: a bit of this and that, all delicious," says Martinez.

Sure, you say, you can open a can in your own kitchen.

But it's doubtful you'll find the kind of global treats that Martinez and Cohen have tracked down, or the eclectic wines — 20 by the glass, a sublime sack, exquisite port and dessert liquors — selected by master sommelier Roger Dagum, of Manhattan's Chantrelle restaurant.

Octopus from Japan, called wasabi

the room is long and narrow with a tiled floor and stools along the bar. Painted a soft cocoa with neutral accents, the decor makes an attractive, unobtrusive backdrop to the vivid flavors of the food.

The menu is divided into five categories: meat, fish, vegetables, cheese and a small selection of desserts. A couple sharing four different meat dishes, without wine, can expect to enjoy a light feast and be set back no more than \$24.50 if they opt for other selections. (Dishes range \$4-\$6.)

Sample will surprise anyone who disdains canned goods. The freshness and richness of flavor that I enjoyed while visiting the cafe surprised me, and I'm not averse to serving a meal that begins with a can opener.

"Most of the canned foods are very good as is," says Martinez. "Sometimes

I'll sprinkle on a little salt or add lemon juice or vinegar for acid. That's all it needs."

A few coarse grains of sea salt enlivened smoky, grilled red peppers filled with a puree of codfish.

A meal can consist of simple nibbles like tangy goat butter on sweet, nutty, fig bread (the tiny fig seeds adding a pleasant graininess) from the Royal Crown Poetry Shop in Bensenville, topped with thin, crisp crescents of radishes that taste faintly of peanuts, or a saucer of big, green Spanish olives, black olives and a few fava beans.

You can't go wrong with any of the imported meat. The thinly sliced, sweet, jamon serrano (aged, air-dried ham) from Spain, scattered with a few crisp almonds, had a slightly smoky flavor, almost like tobacco.

Pass on the overly damp, James almond cake from Spain, although I

tako, is delivered vacuum-sealed in plastic. Visually, it's no beauty, resembling rice pudding tinted an unhealthily pale green. Order it anyway. The wasabi (the root of an Asian plant with a flavor similar to horseradish) ignites the mouth like a firecracker, and then dies down to a soft heat. The squid is firm yet tender; its bland taste transformed by the intensity of the root.

With a glass of cold, smooth Wakatake sake (labeled daiginjo, the highest grade of distilled sake), it's an unforgettable dish.

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Pass on the overly damp, James almond cake from Spain, although I

liked the peas steeped in Muscatel wine that sat beside it) for the plate of cow milk cheese from Basque, France, a pungent bleu Fourme d'Ambert, or a delectably nutty chorizo, a triple creme that is only occasionally on the menu.

With a glass of Australian port, which has just a hint of cherries, you'll enjoy dessert.

And there's so much more: sweet, grilled onions and artichoke hearts perfumed with oregano from Italy; a shredded squid salad seasoned with ginger and cucumber pickle from Japan; chewy, salted, aged beef called bresaola, from Italy; and, in addition to French cheese there are fabulous examples from Italy, Switzerland and Spain.

There's very little to whine about at Sample. I didn't love the overly rich, crumbly camembert, a highly seasoned pork pate from Italy, or the fishy New Zealand mussels with plum compote, a case of opposites not attracting.

Most of the dishes were so good, however, that you may be tempted to order four (or more) instead of the well-named two.

As Brooklyn's own Mae West would say, "Too much of a good thing is wonderful."

Sample Restaurant, 243 Smith Street, Williamsburg, Brooklyn, 718.491.0696

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Step right in

DUMBO play takes audience on a rollicking, historic ride

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

If "What's That on My Head!?" were any more cutting edge it might slit viewers' throats. As it is, this latest madcap adventure by the National Theater of the United States of America (NTUSA), now playing in DUMBO's Nest Arts Complex, takes audiences right to the edge, gives everyone a good look, then yanks them all back again.

The "taking" in this case is literal. "What's That on My Head!?" is a 1964 World's Fair-type romp that presents 400 years in American history as seen through the kaleidoscope lens of NTUSA writers and performers.

The audience sits in swivel seats bolted onto a rolling platform pushed back and forth by several hardy cast members. A flashing light-studded garage door that opens and closes the passageway and curtains on either side permits a mind-boggling number of scenes—all accompanied by costume (Kirstin Tobassian) changes that in and of themselves are worthy of an OBIE, and enough light (Ben Kato) and sound (Jody Elf and Parked Stu) cues to send many stage managers to Bellevue.

THEATER

The National Theater of the United States of America's production of "What's That on My Head!?" plays through Feb. 8, Thursdays through Sundays at 8 pm. Tickets are \$15. The Nest arts complex is located at 88 Front St., at the corner of Washington Street in DUMBO. For reservations, call (212) 615-4607. For more information, visit www.ntusa.org.

The history unveiled in "What's That on My Head!?" unfolds as part of a game show that involves three contestants, a panel of celebrities, an intergalactic game show host having a bad hair day (Jonathan Jacobs), his bearded sidekick (Mark Doskov), and a monster (China E. Cline) whose main role seems to be lurching about menacingly.

After the contestants are asked to guess what object has been placed on their heads, everyone becomes part of a chronologically ordered vignettes depicting key moments in American history. The vignettes are peppered with dancing, singing and declaiming executed with a frenzy that makes one imagine vaudeville on speed, and interrupted periodically by commercials for



And the winner is: (Top left) Jesse Hawley and Normandy Sherwood in a scene from The National Theater of the United States of America's "What's That on My Head!?" now playing at the Nest Arts Complex. (Above) The play unfolds as a game show, hosted by Jonathan Jacobs (far right), with Mark Doskov and James Stanley.

a nonspecific group of products.

The journey begins in old England where King Charles proclaims the founding of the American colonies, after which the audience crosses the Atlantic (the platform actually moves gently back and forth) and witnesses the early colonists stealing or flogging the land from Indians.

The adventure continues as the colonists struggle to establish a foothold in the New World, the rich and pious take advantage of the poor and the Revolutionary War is fought and won.

Then a quick transition to the Civil War (a bowling ball rolls frighteningly toward the audience with the ominous message that we are all cannon fodder) and the audience arrives at a Wild West saloon, the Temperance Movement (featuring one of this reviewer's favorite stupid songs of the '60s "My Baby Does the Hanky-Panky") and a World War I veteran thanking his country for giving him the chance "to make a man of myself."

Then comes the Great Depression ("It's not so great") and President Herbert Hoover seated in a comfortable armchair observing the homeless camped out on the White House lawn. Finally there's the Roaring Twenties (a little out of historical order), the Atomic Age and the Cold War, and a grim ending that seems to predict endless paranoia and panic.

NTUSA is a Brooklyn-based collaborative founded by a group of theater people who met at Skidmore College and the Williamstown Theater Festival in the mid-'90s. After their first two shows, "Placebo Sunrise" and "Garvey & Superpants! Episode 23," new members were attracted to the group.

Members pride themselves on their democratic process in which "each company member's wishes, passions and ideas serve as the impetus for the NTUSA's original theatrical works." There can be no doubt about the originality of "What's That on My Head!?" But a little discipline mixed into this

democracy might have gone a long way to making this a more focused production.

"What's That on My Head!?" contains many unnecessary characters and scenes that could have easily been omitted. Most of the time the platform rolls back and forth with evident purpose, but at times the experience is something like being lost at sea. "Where is this play going, how will it get there, and has it indeed arrived?" are all questions that are not always answered.

Some people, however, may not mind the uncertainties in this production. After all, this is not the America we learned about in history class, so why should it be the theater we learned about in drama class?

Whatever one's theatrical preferences, the energy, originality and great sense of fun that NTUSA demonstrates in "What's That on My Head!?" make the show worthy of attention. This journey through history is one you really shouldn't miss.



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Carter Pann (1972) is a recipient of five ASCAP composer awards and a Charles Ives Scholarship from the Academy of Arts and Letters.

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Max Levinson, piano
Sunday - February 1, 2004 - 2pm
Tickets: \$30

Brooklyn Center debut!
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Danish delight

Catch the Royal Danish Ballet's rare NYC performance at Brooklyn Center

By Kevin Filipski
For The Brooklyn Papers

There is no doubt that New York City is a dance mecca.

Two prestigious ballet companies — American Ballet Theatre and New York City Ballet — reside at Lincoln Center, dozes more perform in the city throughout the year, and such venerable dance institutions as the Mark Morris Dance Group call the borough of Brooklyn home. And there's always the Brooklyn Academy of Music's annual spring series, DanceAfrica.

So it's easy to miss other world-class troupes as they touch down for a single performance. Don't miss this weekend's opportunity to see the Royal Danish Ballet making its Brooklyn Center debut on Jan. 25 in the Walt Whitman Theatre.

The ballet troupe, under the artistic direction of Peter Bo Andersen, is based in Copenhagen, Denmark, and will be making its first U.S. tour in more than a decade at the start of its first U.S. tour, it also brought them to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., for a week-long residency.

Not only is the Royal Danish Ballet one of the oldest dance troupes in the world, having been formed in 1772 and housed under one roof along with the national theater, opera and orchestra since the mid-1750s (at the Royal Danish Theatre in Copenhagen), but its world-renowned ballet school has been in existence since 1756, producing dancers who have gone on to fame in Denmark and abroad.

"Principals and Soloists of the Royal Danish Ballet" is the official title of the Brooklyn Center program, but it is just a little misleading, as a New York City Ballet principal, Nikolaj Hubbe, will be joining the Danish dance stars for this performance.

(Hubbe was born and raised in Copenhagen.) The featured Royal Danish Ballet dancers include principals Mads Blangstrup, Caroline Cavallo, Thomas Lund, Silja Schandorf, soloists Diana Cuni, Morten Eggert, Claire Henrikson, Tina Holund and Amy Watson; and dancers from the corps de ballet: Nikolaj Hansen, David Kupinski [Kupinski?], Femke Molbach Slot and Kristoffer Sakurai.

The ballet program is an overview of two great choreographers, past and present, who have worked closely with the Danish troupe.

Of the seven works on the

program, five are choreographed by esteemed 19th-century Danish master and true choreographic giant, August Bournonville (1805-1879), who began performing with the Royal Danish Ballet in 1828. Then, after two decades dancing with the troupe, he became one of Denmark's major choreographers.

Bournonville is best remembered for the precision of his technique and a very distinct romantic-era style that meshes well with the works the Royal Danish Ballet is performing on this bill. The

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His choreographic masterpiece, the full-length ballet "La Sylphide," which was unveiled in 1842 while Bournonville was working as both a soloist and a choreographer, will be represented by several excerpts.

The other four Bournonville dances being performed are set to music by his composing contemporaries, H. S. Hellsted and H. S. Pauli: "Pas de Trois" (1849), "Wilhelm Tell" (1873), "Flower Festival in Genzano" (1858) and two selections from the third act of the full-length ballet "Napoli" (also from 1842), "Pas de Six" and the Tarantella.

Although most of the program is taken up by this historical age to the greatest Danish choreographer, one of their modern-day masters is also represented by two dances. British-born Tim Rushton, who started as a dancer with the Royal Danish Ballet, among other troupes, before turning exclusively to choreography in 1991, shares Bournonville's belief that dance is the language of the body, a language that is universal in its embrace. Rushton's choreography also emphasizes innovation, especially as regards the music to which he sets his dances, and his two works on the program highlight this aspect of his art.

Rushton's "Triples," from 1991, is set to the timeless music of J.S. Bach, while his more recent "Nomade" (2001) uses the moodily strident music of the Estonian modernist composer Arvo Pärt, whose shimmering minimalist style seems tailor-made for modern-dance choreography.

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Where to

SAT, JAN 24

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

METRO TOUR: Mauricio Lencore hosts a walking tour of Brooklyn Heights, Fort Greene and Clinton Hill. \$25; 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Meet at Marriott Hotel, 333 Adams St. (718) 789-0430.

PERFORMANCE

PLAY: "There Goes the Neighborhood," a play about the gentrification of Carroll Gardens. One-woman show is based on the words and vivid people of the neighborhood. \$15; 5:10 members, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St. (718) 222-4111.

FORUM: Open Ground hosts a talk on gentrification and rezoning. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. 252 Grand St. (347) 613-1849.

RHYTHM AND B&M: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Winter Soul," a program featuring soul legend Sam Moore and singer-guitarist Raul Midon. \$25, \$20, 7:30 p.m. Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-1100.

BARGEMUSIC: presents a chamber music concert of Bach, Mozart, Schiffr and Faure. \$35; 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

BCBC: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents reggae singer Freddie McGregor. \$35; 5:30 p.m. Walt Whitman Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4400.

LOCAL PRODUCE: Spoke the Hub hosts its third annual winter folies featuring an array of dancers, musicians, actors and performing artists. \$15; 5:30 kids and seniors. 3 p.m. 205 Douglas St. (718) 408-3234.

GALLERY PLAYERS: presents "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown." \$15, \$12 children 12 and under and over 60. 1 p.m. 199 14th St. (718) 595-6247.

ROYAL DANISH EXCHANGE: presents a shared evening performance and discussion featuring Division 13 Productions, Halfpaw/Sandwich Works and Antonio Ramos. Discussion follows 13 Productions. \$15; 5:10 members, \$8 low-income. 8 p.m. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents "Hiroshima Maiden." Puppet theater dramatizes the true story of the Hiroshima Maiden, a group of Japanese women displaced by the nuclear blast. \$25, 8 p.m. 38 Water St. (718) 254-8779.

SHAKESPEARE: Waterloo Bridge Theater Company presents "Twelfth Night or What You Will." \$15, \$10 students, 8 p.m. 421 5th Ave. (718) 502-0796.

CONCERT: Park Slope Singers performs vocal music featuring Faure, Handel and Billings. Additional selections of folk songs, madrigals and more. \$10, 8 p.m. 421 5th Ave. (718) 502-0796.

DANCE: Williamsburg Art Nexus presents "Big Momma's." \$12, 8 p.m. 205 N. 9th St. (718) 599-7997.

B&M CAFE: Second 2 Last presents an evening of poetry, rhythm, hip-hop, reggae and jazz. \$10 food/drink minimum. 10 p.m. Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-1111.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS: presents "A View from the Bridge." \$12, \$10 seniors and students. 26 Willow Place between Duane and Joralemon streets. 8 p.m. (718) 237-2752.

HISTORY PLAY: The National Theater of the United States of America presents "What's That on My Head?" \$15, 8 p.m. West Arts Complex, 70 Washington St. between Water and Front streets. (718) 215-6607.

CHILDREN

BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Body and movement workshop for kids 5 to 12 years is invited to learn about the current exhibit "The Making of a Living in Brooklyn." Participants interpret work moves, move they see people do everyday on the move, and moves they see in the exhibit. \$5; 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 128 Pierpont St. (718) 222-4111.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Olivia, the piglet, is theme for this week's Saturday story time. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. 128 Pierpont St. (718) 222-4111.

CHINESE NEW YEAR: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, invites kids to celebrate year of the monkey. Readings, crafts, films and entertainment. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2101.

PUPPETWORKS: "Rumpelstiltskin" by the Brothers Grimm. \$6, \$7 adults, \$4 kids and older. 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. 338 4th Ave. (718) 965-3391.

HIP-HOP THEATRE: Brooklyn Arts Exchange offers a four-week class, "The Craft of Writing for the Hip-Hop Stage." 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Call to register. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: "Mushroom" by Charles D. Dream. Paintings. Kids are invited to make a painting in the style of the artist. Aboriginal paintings. \$4, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

KIDS CAFE FEST: Dancewave Inc. presents its 10th anniversary festival featuring dance, music and theater. Over 150 kids from NYC and beyond perform. \$16, \$12 kids, 3 p.m. Brooklyn Museum School, 125 5th St. (718) 522-4696.

OTHER

ADOPTION TALK: "You Gotta Believe," an adoption agency, is looking for families who are willing to adopt teens and teens. Learn about opportunities. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 128 Pierpont St. (718) 222-4111.

SALE: Sale of Brooklyn College's 100th Anniversary Souvenir. \$15, \$10 members, \$5 students. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Atlantic Avenue between Hoyt and Bond streets. (718) 605-0497.

SINGLES EVENT: Bay Ridge Singles Club celebrates Chinese New Year. Noon. Meet in front of 740 13th Ave. Chinese dinner follows. Call. (718) 256-3121.

EXHIBIT: Micro Museum presents exhibition "The New York City Museum." 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 123 Smith St. (718) 797-3116.

MUMMIES BAZAAR: Brooklyn Museum of Art hosts a family party, its annual fund-raising event. Activities for the whole family including mummification, films, dancing and food. All inspired by the art of ancient Egypt. \$25 adults and \$50 seniors. 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 501-6423.

YEAR OF THE MONKEY: Salt Marsh Nature Center celebrates the Chinese New Year with "15 to 18." 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021.

SUN, JAN 25

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BEACH ECOLOGY: Salt Marsh Nature Center hosts a walk. 11 a.m. Meet at Coney Island Beach, Boardwalk at Denos Viceroy Plaza formerly West 12th St. (718) 421-2021.

PERFORMANCE

BCBC: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents Principals and Soloists of the Royal Danish Ballet. \$35, 2 p.m. Walt Whitman Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4400.

CONCERT: Bach at Zion presents Baroque Chamber music by Vivaldi, Telemann and Handel. \$15 includes wine reception. 3 p.m. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-2772.

BARGEMUSIC: presents a chamber music concert of Bach, Mozart, Schiffr and Faure. \$35; 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

GALLERY PLAYERS: presents "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown." 3 p.m. See Sat., Jan. 24.

SHAKESPEARE: Waterloo Bridge Theater Company presents "Twelfth Night or What You Will." \$15, \$10 students, 8 p.m. 421 5th Ave. (718) 502-0796.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents "Hiroshima Maiden." 4 p.m. See Sat., Jan. 24.

LOCAL PRODUCE: Spoke the Hub hosts its third annual winter folies featuring an array of dancers, musicians, actors and performing artists. \$15; 5:30 kids and seniors. 3 p.m. 205 Douglas St. (718) 408-3234.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS: presents "A View from the Bridge." 2 p.m. See Sat., Jan. 24.

HISTORY PLAY: The National Theater of the United States of America presents "What's That on My Head?" 8 p.m. See Sat., Jan. 24.

PLAY: "There Goes the Neighborhood" at Brooklyn Historical Society. 3 p.m. See Sat., Jan. 24.

CHILDREN

KIDS CAFE FEST: Dancewave Inc. presents its 10th anniversary festival. 3 p.m. See Sat., Jan. 24.

PUPPETWORKS: "Rumpelstiltskin." 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. See Sat., Jan. 24.

OTHER

SUNDAY PLAYERS: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture hosts a play. "Spiritually Without God." 11 a.m. Pollock Lunch follows. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-2772.

ROAST: Roast 2004 for the benefit of the Brooklyn Museum. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mary Goldens, Borough President. Meet Mark Morimoto and Mark Campa. 12:30 p.m. Sirico's Restaurant, 802 13th Ave. (718) 254-8779.

FILM: The Watch Club hosts its monthly film series. "The Making of a Living in Brooklyn." Episode 8 of the Burns' series about Brooklyn, which chronicles the rise and fall of the World Trade Center. 1 p.m. Pizza lunch at 12:30 p.m. St. Ann and the Trinity Church, Clinton and Montague streets. (718) 975-6960.

FORUM: Open Ground hosts a talk on gentrification and rezoning. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. 252 Grand St. (347) 613-1849.

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PLAY: "There Goes the Neighborhood" at Brooklyn Historical Society. 3 p.m. See Sat., Jan. 24.

MON, JAN 26

REUNION LUNCH: 39th semi-annual subway reunion lunch. Noon to 4 p.m. Lef Tavern, 67th Street and Fifth Avenue. (718) 351-8107.

MEETING: Community Board 10 meets. 6:30 p.m. St. Angela's Media Hall, 820 5th St. (718) 260-WAXY. Free.

ANGER WORKSHOP: Families First offers a talk to help you figure out "How Angry" you are. Live and Silent! The anger management workshop is designed to help you understand the anger in your life. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 128 Pierpont St. (718) 222-4111.

HEALING CIRCLE: With Donna Hense, a series of 12 sessions. 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 128 Pierpont St. (718) 222-4111.

FILM SERIES: Barbes Traveling Cinema presents "Live and Silent!" Films by Germaine Dulac. Films include "The Love of a Woman" and "Smiling Madame Beudet." 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. 128 Pierpont St. (718) 222-4111.

COMMUNITY MEETING: Baronsburg West End Community Council presents guest speaker Jim Harney, editor of the Daily News York with "15 to 18." 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021.

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

and 5, \$35; 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

GALLERY PLAYERS: presents "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown." \$15, \$12 children 12 and younger and seniors. 8 p.m. 199 14th St. (718) 595-6247.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents "Hiroshima Maiden." Puppet theater dramatizes the true story of the Hiroshima Maiden, a group of Japanese women displaced by the nuclear blast. \$25, 8 p.m. 38 Water St. (718) 254-8779.

BROOKLYN CONSERVATORY: The Four Bags perform music for accordion, guitar, woodwinds and trombone. \$10, \$5 seniors and students, 8 p.m. 421 5th Ave. (718) 502-0796.

DANCE: The National Theater of the United States of America presents "What's That on My Head?" Piece presents the history of America through the lens of a time-tempest game show. \$15, 8 p.m. West Arts Complex, 70 Washington St. (718) 215-6607.

SHAKESPEARE: Waterloo Bridge Theater Company presents "Twelfth Night or What You Will." \$15, \$10 students, 8 p.m. 421 5th Ave. (718) 502-0796.

CAMP FAIR: Parents and children with disabilities are invited to learn about camp programs for summer 2004. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Church of St. Paul the Apostle, 405 W. 5th St. (718) 465-0450.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Author and illustrator Todd Parr reads from his cheerful books including "The Feel Good Book." 11 a.m. to 100 Carleton St. 246-1588.

PURCHASE: "Rumpelstiltskin" by the Brothers Grimm. \$6, \$7 adults, \$4 and older. 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. 128 Pierpont St. (718) 951-4400.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Year of the Monkey with a dragon parade and Chinese play party. Free for members. 1 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

SCAVENGER HUNT: Watson Adventures hosts a hunt. Bring a good pair of walking shoes. \$15; 5:30 p.m. Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-1100.

KIDS OUTBACK: Brooklyn Arts Exchange hosts annual event featuring local young creators, ages 7 to 17. \$8, \$5 members. 12:30 p.m. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018.

OTHER

WRITE A PLAY: Young Playwrights Inc. and the National Playwriting Competition hosts a teacher training session. Learn how to use playwriting

as a tool to promote literacy and encourage expression. NYC educators, grades 5 to 12, can receive a \$100 stipend and staff development credit for participation. \$225, 12-hour workshop. Call to register. 212-594-5440.

ACCESS FOR WOMEN: Women are invited to attend a free technical training for jobs in technology. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Viceroy Hall cafeteria, 186 Jay St. (718) 552-1134. Free.

SPEED DATING: Acquire up to 20 dates in one night for men ages 25 to 40 and women ages 30 to 45. \$35. Reservations required. 7:30 p.m. Captain Viceroy, 186 Jay St. (718) 552-1134.

MUSIC EXTRAVAGANZA: Office Open presents art, music and video performance by Moorcraft, Mark Nicosia, Goshy, Adam T. Rusk, and many others. \$15, 8 p.m. To get you ready, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. 128 Pierpont St. (718) 222-4111.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents "Hiroshima Maiden." 8 p.m. See Sat., Jan. 24.

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Emergency team gets first test

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

As second-responders churned through wreckage and mangled bodies, a rescue worker took a moment to alert the media of surprises yet to come.

"This is good. Get in here," one of the workers said as he waved on cameramen and reporters that were cordoned off less than 100 feet from what turned out to be one of the more surreal moments to hit Shore Road Park in recent memory.

He was talking about volunteers, including state Sen. Marty Golden, who had rushed to the aid of a victim who'd been suffering under the collapse of a fallen wooden pallet as a crush of reporters circled close by. Outside the park house near 79th Street, six other bodies lay lifeless as patches of fire spit clouds of smoke.

Amid the chaos, rescue workers wearing green helmets rushed to save the few who were still "alive."

Fortunately, it was only a drill.

The bodies were mannequins and the fire was pre-arranged. The rescue workers were, perhaps, the only real aspect to the test on this 19-degree afternoon.

Lawyers and doctors by day, the jumpstart-clad rescue workers, part of Bay Ridge's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) reacted



Members of Bay Ridge's Community Emergency Response Team carry a "victim" during the Jan. 17 drill.

appropriately during the city's first such exercise. The 45-minute hypothetical went off without a hitch, thanks to the volunteers, all of whom live or work in Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights or Bayside.

The idea for the team, the city's first, was born after the trauma of the Sept. 11, 2001 disaster incited nearly 1,000 residents living in then-Councilman Marty Golden's 43rd district to demand that their neighborhoods organize in the

event another attack should occur. In April 2002, the state Senate Committee on Homeland Security met at Fort Hamilton to discuss the area's readiness to react to emergencies. There, the program was born.

Golden, who studied search-and-rescue procedures during seven training sessions in November, said the inspiration came when following 9-11, thousands of New Yorkers volunteered to help with the

cleanup at the World Trade Center site.

"We wanted to bottle that up," he said. "We wanted to have that if we ever needed it again in the future."

Since then, volunteers have helped direct traffic during the city's blackout last August and to navigate pedestrians stranded by October's Staten Island Ferry crash to buses crossing the Verrazano Narrows Bridge.

"This wasn't just a knee-jerk reaction to 9-11," said

Ray Aalbu, part of the CERT team and a spokesman for the Fort Hamilton Army base.

The Jan. 17 drill included 16 of more than 100 volunteers with the program, who were acting according to the scenario that first-responders, police and firefighters were tied up with other emergencies.

"We've never been taking these actions if the police department or Fire Department were available," said Scott Caruthers, chief operations and training officer with the CERT.

He said, however, that had first-responders been tied up with other fires when flames scorched an apartment on Emmons Avenue in Sheepshead Bay earlier that morning, they could have lent a hand. Though that incident was outside of the program's immediate response area, it was exactly the type of emergency for which CERT volunteers are trained.

Over the course of the training sessions, which began last November, volunteers who live or work in Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights and Bayside learned safety skills like CPR, first aid and fire extinguisher use. Others, like Pat Conrads, a Community Board 10 member, are trained to deal with weapons of mass destruction. The next full-scale drill is on March 28 following a second session of classes beginning in February.

When rescuers opened the garage of the park house to discover more fire and a body



This dummy hand was part of the surreal scene.

wedged under the pallet, Golden yelled, "Is there anybody in there?" Chip Caffero, another volunteer, shouted, "We got bodies in here."

As several of the volunteers entered the house on Shore Road at 79th Street, Golden unloaded piles of wood from a truck to be used for cribbing, or leveraging, the pallet from the body. Golden, Caffero and the rest were able to free the victim but soon found that the victim was suffering from cardiac arrest.

Conrads moved the mannequin to a nearby tent, where he performed CPR. Along the way, he spoke to the pretend victim, another skill he learned during the training course.

"We learned how to console and empathize with people during traumatic situations," said Tom DiLauro, another volunteer.

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A screen image of the anti-shelter Web cartoon.

SHELTER...

Continued from page 1 on his anti-shelter Web site, OurCarrollGardens.com.

Conrads describes the "True Neighborhood Story," as he has titled it, as a cross between "South Park" and "The Simpsons" and hopes the animation "will help people understand things a little bit better."

So far, Conrads has posted a brief introduction accompanied with low-budget action movie theme music and the

first installment of what he sees as an ongoing series.

"I think even the other side would laugh watching something like that," Conrads said this week, just after posting the introduction and first installment of the cartoon on his Web site.

But so far, the other side isn't laughing. "I am portrayed as an inarticulate Homer Simpson-type dolt, complete with a huge beer belly," complained

Howard Graubard, a leader of the shelter proponents who helped found Carroll Gardens Supports Children and Moms Proudly CG-SCAMP.

While Conrads has changed the names of those involved (including a Sony television, which appears as "Bony"), it is not difficult to figure out that Graubard, the leader of CG-SCAMP, is the inspiration behind "Hog Babar," leader of SG-CRAMPS.

In the four-minute segment, Babar is interviewed by a vision anchor for "Eye-spiindis News" and compares

the shelter struggle to anti-Semitism. When asked why, Babar replies, "Uhhh, I don't know, but it feels that way."

Conrads says Graubard is overreacting to the cartoon. "He shouldn't be feeling upset," the 32-year-old Web designer said when asked why he portrayed Graubard as fat and stupid. "It's the style that I use — everything is exaggerated."

More than 100 hours of work went into the first two installments including brainstorming, building concepts, writing dialogue and drawing. Conrads said.

The controversy over the four-story residence has been brewing since August when neighbors got wind of the planned facility and organized a meeting to denounce the New York Asian Women's Center's plan to buy the Carroll Gardens building and convert it into a shelter for victims of domestic violence.

At the same time, a group of neighborhood supporters rallied behind the facility and the two camps have been warring ever since.

"I thought it was funny," said Salvatore Russo, a local attorney and leader of Carroll Gardens Concerned Citizens, which unsuccessfully sued to try and stop the New York Asian Women's Center from opening the shelter.

"It's a satirical look at the event," added Russo, who said he was only offended by humor once — a Mel Brooks depiction of the Crucifixion on film.

As the center prepares to move families into the facility next month, the New York Asian Women's Center chairwoman, Kyong Yoon, said she can't understand why the opponents made the cartoon.

"I just don't understand why they're creating something like that," said Yoon, a former reporter for Fox-5 TV news.

"I just wish the people who are putting time and creative energy into making something like that cartoon would put that energy towards something more constructive."

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C02.04

LAKE...

Continued from page 1

freezing for weeks, the Parks Department cautioned this week.

Signs in English and Spanish warning against thin ice are posted all around the 60-acre lake.

Last year, a man walking through the park with his family walked out onto the ice and fell through. A nearby Parks Department employee helped keep him alive until police arrived on the scene.

In the early 1980s, three teenagers ventured out onto the ice on a dare and two fell through and died, Thomas said.

Anyone with information about last weekend's incident is asked to call the police at (800) 577-TIPS.

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The Brooklyn Papers HEALTH, MIND & BODY

Methodist test for deadly lung disease

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It is estimated that nearly 12 million people thought to have a deadly lung disease called chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are unaware of their condition.

Patients at New York Methodist Hospital considered at risk for lung disease receive a quick and easy test to determine their lung function. Called spirometry, this test helps physicians diagnose and assess the risk of patients developing lung disease such as COPD.

At-risk individuals include current and past smokers, those with a family history of chronic respiratory illness, exposure to occupational dust and chemicals, and patients with asthma, shortness of breath and chronic coughing with increased mucus.

COPD, which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis, is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, and claims more than 117,000 lives each year.

The disease creates scarring on the lining of the bronchial tubes and damage to the air chambers that can cause irreversible lung damage as elasticity of the tissue is depleted over a period of time.

Those affected have difficulty emptying air out of their lungs and progressive shortness of breath.

"Because the signs of COPD are subtle, many people are unaware that they have the disease," said Gerard Lombardo MD, acting chief of pulmonary, critical care and



Mikhail Romanenko, a respiratory therapist at New York Methodist Hospital, assists a patient taking a spirometry test.

sleep medicine at New York Methodist Hospital. "Consequently, over a period of time these individuals may notice a decreased ability to perform basic everyday activities, such as walking up a flight of stairs, due to breathlessness and fatigue."

While there is no cure for COPD, eliminating lifestyle risks, such as smoking, can prevent future lung damage and improve a patient's quality of life.

Medications are also available which work to make breathing easier. Early intervention and diagnosis of decreased lung function is crucial. "As we start at a new year, I strongly encourage

at-risk individuals to get a spirometry test. Depending on the cause, complications of lung disease can be reversed if caught in the beginning stages," said Lombardo.

Performed in a matter of minutes, spirometry testing is a non-invasive, painless procedure that measures how quickly the lungs can be emptied and filled, and how much air can be blown out.

Patients are given a mouthpiece attached to the spirometer machine and asked to take a deep breath. They are then instructed to exhale, blowing out air for at least six seconds.

The machine immediately calculates the rate that air can be inhaled and exhaled and

compares the results to healthy individuals of similar age and height.

"Spirometry is considered the first step in screening for lung disease," said Lombardo. "The test can provide early diagnosis, which can lead to better treatment options and symptoms relief for people experiencing breathing difficulties."

Spirometry can also be used to monitor response to therapy, and is a recommended tool in diagnosing and assessing the progress of asthma patients. For further information contact New York Methodist Hospital's Institute for Asthma and Lung Disease at (866) ASK-LUNG (275-5864).

Maimonides names C. David Hunt DN

Maimonides Medical Center

Maimonides Medical Center has appointed C. David Hunt, MD, a prominent and respected neurosurgeon, to serve as Director of Neurosurgery. The Division of Neurosurgery at Maimonides plans to provide comprehensive care with the most advanced technology available today.



C. David Hunt, MD.

Hunt began his career in neuroscience at the age of 16, when he first attempted to characterize the neurochemical origin of cerebral vasospasm. This might seem an unusual pursuit for a teenager, but the young scientist was merely following a family tradition. His research was performed in his father's lab; he is a second-generation neurosurgeon and seventh-generation physician.

"Maimonides is privileged to welcome Dr. Hunt to the medical center and to the surgical staff," said Chairman of Surgery Joseph Cunningham, MD. "His skills as a surgeon, combined with his research and teaching experience, will benefit all of our neurosurgical patients."

A graduate of Amherst College and Ohio State University College of Medicine, Hunt completed his residency and internship in neurosurgical surgery at New York University Medical Center and Bellevue Hospital. He also taught for five years at SUNY Downstate Medical School before moving to the New Jersey Medical School, which is part

of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). A member of several hospital and university committees, Hunt also served as Chairman of the Bio-Ethics Committee at UMDNJ's University Hospital.

Under the leadership of Hunt, Maimonides is poised to offer the most advanced diagnostic and treatment services for neurosurgical patients. In addition, a full range of complementary clinical and support services will be provided to patients and their families, including pain management, nutrition consultation, psychological counseling and social work assistance.

Hunt, whose special interest is neurovascular surgery, has clinical interests that include neurosurgical instrumentation, the use of computers in medicine, management of trauma (particularly in cases of cervical spine injury) and education. For more information on the Division of Neurosurgery at Maimonides Medical Center, please call (718) 283-7219.

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can suffer from IBS. Isn't it what you heard a frank talk about IBS instead of suffering in silence?

Irvin Grossman, MD, Chief of Gastroenterology at Long Island College Hospital, in conjunction with the divisions of nursing education and business & community health, will deliver a presentation, "Understanding Irritable Bowel Syndrome."

The lecture, on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2004, is free, and light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to (718) 780-2860.

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Oy vey! City says 'no way' to Marty's Williamsburg signage

Associated Press

"Oy vey" was too "me-shugga" for the city Transportation Department.

The department said Monday it rejected a request from Borough President Marty Markowitz for a sign on the

Williamsburg Bridge that would have read, "Leaving Brooklyn: Oy Vey!"

The agency felt the sign—featuring the Yiddish phrase for "oh, woe"—would be more distracting than helpful to Manhattan-bound motorists. "We considered it, but we

didn't think it added directional information," said DOT spokesman Tom Cocola. He said an example of useful signs would be those blue jobs reading, "Hospital," or "Coney Island Aquarium, straight ahead."

While an earlier highway

sign using the word "Fuhgedd-aboudit!" was criticized by some as an anti-Italian slur, Cocola said any concern that the "Oy Vey" sign might offend the sensibilities of Brooklyn's large Jewish community was not part of the DOT decision.

Markowitz, who was born and grew up in that community, agreed with the department—at least to that extent.

"Oy vey" was originally a Jewish phrase, but everyone knows what it means and it's now a common Brooklyn expression — part of that Brooklyn attitude," he said in a telephone interview. "All I'm trying to do is put a smile on people's faces. I'm sorry if the DOT has no sense of humor."

Since his election as borough president, or "beep," in 2002, the bubbly former state senator has become what he calls its "chief advocate, biggest promoter and most enthusiastic cheerleader."

To that end he began the sign campaign a year ago with one reading, "Welcome to Brooklyn: How Sweet It Is!"

— a line borrowed from the late Brooklyn-born comedian Jackie Gleason.

The DOT let that stand, but nixed another sign reading, "Leaving Brooklyn: Fuhgedd-aboudit!" at the Verazano Narrows Bridge to Staten Is-

land, for what Cocola said was the same reason, "a lack of directional information."

"We try to minimize distractions to drivers," Cocola said.

That sign was later moved off the city-controlled right of way, but remains in place—despite complaints by the Washington, D.C.-based National Italian-American Foundation that it "reinforces a negative and demeaning stereotype" of Italian-Americans.

"To them I say, 'get a life!'" Markowitz said with a snort. "It has nothing to do with Italians. It's just another multi-ethnic expression. You live in Brooklyn, you can't help but pick up these words. Their problem of stereotypes is with 'The Sopranos' on HBO, not us."

Asked what might be his next move, given that Brooklyn has 91 other identifiable ethnic groups, Markowitz replied: "On the scope of things all of this is unimportant, but anything I can do to help Brooklyn I will."



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Schumer's upstate campaign

Associated Press

ORANGETOWN, N.Y. — Even without a clear opponent yet in his re-election bid to the U.S. Senate, it is a safe bet Sen. Charles Schumer will find a way to use all of his \$20 million campaign chest.

A lot of it may be spent just on gas money.

Schumer, a lifelong Brook-

lyn politician who has tried to become a household name upstate, seems to be coasting toward an easy re-election victory. Instead the 53-year-old is racing, peering almost every city, town and hamlet with his squinty grin, even as Republicans continue to search for a challenger.

On a recent one-day swing through Rockland, Putnam, and Orange Counties, Schumer made four stops — a plastics factory threatened by cheap Chinese imports, a home affected by water contamination, a genetic drug company looking for greater access to the marketplace, and a senior center.

He began the day with a speech to business leaders in New York City, and returned to the city at night to catch his daughter's basketball game and a late fund-raiser.

But don't call it a campaign. "If you're doing your job, this is what you should be doing all the time," said Schumer.

His hectic public schedule — a hallmark of his career since he successfully ran out of the Assembly straight out of college — and the continued lack of a challenger has led some to question whether he is positioning himself for a run for governor in 2006.

"I'm not even thinking about that," Schumer insisted, jabbing his plastic fork in the air to emphasize his point as he caught a quick meal in a car between visits in Orange County.

But a recent Marist College poll shows plenty of other people are thinking about it.

Schumer leads Attorney General Eliot Spitzer 54 percent to 29 percent among Democratic voters in a hypothetical matchup, the poll found.

Schumer's Democratic colleague and Washington roommate, Sen. Richard Durbin of Illinois, said Schumer seriously considered running for governor as a congressman, but eventually set his sights on the Senate.

Durbin insists that for all of Schumer's annoyingly loud late-night phone calls, he hasn't heard a peep out of him about the governor's office since that time years ago.

Sipping coffee in a pizza shop, Schumer said he is trying to build a career modeled on Jacob Javits, the senator from New York who served four terms.

"He made this guy's life better, that guy's life better, all of it," Schumer said.

By that standard, state Republicans charge, Schumer has not delivered for New York, even as they search for a candidate to articulate the complaint.

Asked about the candidate search, state Republican party Chairman Alexander Treaswell said he won't be "boxed in" to a deadline for finding an opponent, and lobbed a novel label at the senator: two-killer.

"Last year he did 764 press releases, so our trees are in danger," said Treaswell.

Estate Planning Questions?

ASK JOHN

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Many people think that "estate planning" is something meant for just the "rich." This is a misconception that too often leads to miscommunication, hurt feelings, and unhappy surprises. Here are the seven mistakes people often make and how you can avoid them.

- 1.) Failing to plan.** Estate planning is about making sure your wishes are carried out. It's making sure that the people and organizations you wish to receive your assets do so. Working with a team that includes a financial planner, tax professional, and estate planning attorney can help put you on course.
- 2.) Not documenting your wishes.** It's important to work with your attorney to create:
 - A will — one that clearly spells out what you want to happen to your assets and possessions at your death. Without a will, the state may decide where your things are going to go.
 - A durable health power of attorney or proxy — to assign the person that you want to make health decisions for you if you are unable.
 - A durable financial power of attorney — to assign the person who will make financial decisions if you are unable.
 - And a living will — to provide clear instructions as to what treatment you do and do not want if you are unable to speak for yourself.
- 3.) Not properly setting up guardianship for children.** If you do not name a guardian to care for your children, a judge will appoint one, and it may not be someone you would have chosen. Talk to the person ahead of time about what you are asking. And, remember that the person that you are naming as guardian doesn't necessarily have to be the person that manages the money that is left for your child's benefit. You can name a couple as co-guardians, but that may not be advisable because, should the couple divorce, custody will come into question and your children may not end up with the person you originally chose.
- 4.) Not taking advantage of trusts.** The reason to set up a trust is to give you additional control. Think of a trust as a container designed to hold money for your heirs. You decide what you are going to put into the trust, who gets what in the trust, and how it is distributed. So, a properly structured trust can help ensure that your plan is executed exactly the way you intended it to be. A trust should be drafted by an attorney with experience dealing with estate planning and trusts.
- 5.) Disregarding federal estate taxes.** If your estate is subject to federal estate taxes, keep in mind that they are due within nine months of death — in cash. This may be a concern if much of your estate is not actually in cash. That will mean selling assets, such as a house, for instance, that you may have meant to leave to an heir. Federal estate taxes you meant for your heirs to enjoy — not Uncle Sam. You can work with a financial planner, tax professional, and estate planning attorney to determine which strategies may best help you avoid this.
- 6.) Subjecting all assets to probate.** Simply put, probate is the legal process of verifying your will through the courts. It can be slow and costly and isn't private — it's all a matter of public record. So, if you don't want Cousin Sally to know that Cousin Jimmy is getting your baseball card collection, you're out of luck. You still need a will, but there are actions you can take so that a portion of your assets do not need to go through the probate process.
- 7.) Not being prepared for long term care.** Suppose you or your partner is in need of long term care. Such care can be quite costly and can eat away at assets. Assets that you originally had set aside for your heirs. The good news is that you can properly prepare for the possible need of long term care while preserving your hard-earned assets for your heirs. A financial professional can show you your options.

These are seven of the more common mistakes people make when planning their estates. Working with your team, including your financial planner, tax professional, and estate planning attorney, you can create a plan that will help you avoid these and other mistakes so that you can ensure that the people you want to receive your assets do so. You keep control.

After all, that's what estate planning is all about.

Note: This article is designed as an educational resource. Neither MetLife nor its representatives are engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or tax advice.

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